THE

Board of Trade Journal.

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The Offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade are at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

The registered telegraphic address of the Branch is "Advantage, London."

A statement of the objects and work of the Commercial Intelligence Branch will be found on p. 625.

Attention is directed to the Sample Room, where there are at present on view, among other exhibits, samples of tobacco grown in Jamaica, and samples of cotton grown within the Empire, viz., eleven received from the British Cotton Growing Association, three from the West India Committee, and eleven from the Imperial Institute.

The following Special Trade Enquiry Offices are also at 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.:—

India.	Queensland.
Dominion of Canada.	Cape of Good Hope.

Statements of the objects and work of the Special Trade Enquiry Offices will be found on p. 626.

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE.

BRITISH INDIA.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS: INDIA OFFICE.

Ballast Wagons.

The Secretary of State for India in Council is prepared to receive tenders from such persons as may be willing to supply—

Ballast wagons.

The conditions of contract may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., or may be obtained on application to the Director-General of Stores, India Office, Whitehall, S.W. Tenders are to be delivered at that office by two p.m. on Tuesday, the 11th April, after which time no tender will be received.

Openings for British Trade.

BRITISH INDIA—*continued.*

Wrought Iron Material.

The Directors of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Company are prepared to receive, up to noon on Tuesday, the 4th April, tenders for the supply of—

Wrought iron material.

Tenders must be made on a form, copies of which, with specification, can be obtained at the offices of the Company, Gloucester House, Bishopsgate Street Without, London, E.C., on payment of 21*s.* each (which will not be returned).

The Directors do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

Railway Materials and Tools.

The East Indian Railway Company are prepared to receive tenders for the supply and delivery of—

1. Steel plates, angles, bars, &c.;
2. Files;
3. Picks, kodalies, phowrahs, and shovels;
4. Hammer handles and mallets;

as per specification to be seen at the Company's Offices, Nicholas Lane, London, E.C.

Tenders are to be sent to the Secretary, marked "Tender for Steel Plates, &c.," or as the case may be, not later than noon on Wednesday, the 5th April.

The Company reserve the right to divide the order, also to decline any tender without assigning a reason, and do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

Fees, which cannot under any circumstances be returned, are charged for the specifications, as under, viz., for Nos. 1 and 2, 21*s.* each, and for Nos. 3 and 4, 10*s.* 6*d.* each.

Railway Stores.

The Directors of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company are prepared to receive tenders for the supply of the following stores, namely:—Crank axles; wheels and axles; bearing springs; volute and spiral springs; brake rigging; bib cocks, &c.; stationery, &c.; lamp glasses, &c.; galvanised corrugated sheets.

Specifications and forms of tender may be obtained at the Company's Offices, 48, Copthall Avenue, E.C., on payment of the fee for the specification, which payment will not be returned.

Tenders must be delivered in sealed envelopes, addressed to the Secretary, marked "Tender for Crank Axles," or, as the case may be, not later than 11 a.m. on Thursday, the 6th April.

The Directors do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

Openings for British Trade.

CANADA.

Enquiries relating to Canadian Trade.

The following trade enquiries have been received at the **Canadian Government Trade Enquiry Office, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.**, whence further information regarding them may be obtained :—

Home Enquiries.—A firm manufacturing biscuits are prepared to appoint a Canadian resident agent.

The services of an influential firm in Canada are required to undertake the sale of oils, solidified lubricants, petroleum jellies, and similar goods.

A firm manufacturing high-speed air hardening tool steel, and machine tools of various kinds, are willing to appoint a Canadian resident agent.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the Canadian Government Trade Enquiry Office, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

Apple Trade.

The following memorandum by the Department of Agriculture has been received at the Canadian Government Trade Enquiry Office, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C. :—

"*Canadian Apples.*—The Western Ontario apple growers have "formed a large number of Co-operative Associations, with the "object of handling the export trade in apples to the United "Kingdom market next season. Up to the present, this method "of marketing apples has only been employed in connection with "domestic trade, including shipments to Manitoba and the North "West. The success which has attended the efforts of these "older societies has induced a large number of associations to "organise themselves, and at a meeting of the representatives of "the various societies, held early in the month of March at "Toronto, it was decided to pool their products and sell in "common. This will mean a 50,000 barrel lot to be disposed of "practically by one seller. Under no circumstances will the fruit "be sent on consignment. These apples will be packed and "graded much above the average. For the information of buyers "it may be mentioned that very little travelling will be necessary, "as the apples will be gathered at one or two points."

TRANSVAAL.

Switchboards, &c.

The Municipal Council of Johannesburg are prepared to receive tenders for the supply and erection of—

Switchboards and accessories for their new direct and alternating current power station.

General conditions, specification and forms of tender may be seen on and after Friday, March 31st, at the offices of the Council's

consulting engineers, Messrs. Mordey & Dawbarn, 82, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., and may be obtained from them on payment of five guineas, which will be returned on receipt of a *bonâ fide* tender. Further copies of the general conditions, specification and forms of tender may be obtained on payment of ten shillings, which will not be returned.

Tenders are to be addressed to Messrs. Mordey & Dawbarn, 82, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., and must reach them not later than noon on Thursday, April 27th, 1905.

The Council do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender, and are not responsible for the cost of tendering.

SWEDEN.

Coal.

The supplement to "Post och Inrikes Tidningar" of the 21st March contains a notice calling for tenders for the supply to the Vanersborg Hospital of certain goods, including 3,000 tons of best South Yorkshire hard steam coal. Tenders must be sent in to the Administration of the hospital not later than mid-day on 15th April.

NETHERLANDS.

Competition for the Discovery of an Improved Method of Diamond Cutting.

A despatch has been received at the Foreign Office from the Netherlands Minister in London (Baron Gericke) forwarding particulars of a competition instituted by the Government of the Netherlands for the discovery of a method of cutting diamonds which will obviate the present use of an alloy injurious to the health of those handling the stones.

The Minister of the Interior has appointed a committee of experts to consider the answers submitted, and to award the prize. The answers must be written in either the Dutch, French, English or German languages, and must be accompanied by samples or objects to enable the committee to form an opinion about the practical value of the invention, as also by a legibly written address of the competitor.

The answers, and the samples or objects pertaining thereto, must be sent carriage paid, and if sent from foreign countries duty paid, before January 1st, 1906, to Professor Dr. L. Aronstein, chairman of the committee, Chemical Laboratory of the Polytechnic School, Delft, Holland.

The prize to be awarded for a complete solution of the problem is six thousand florins. The committee are empowered to divide the prize among different competitors, or to partially award the prize in case of a partial solution of the problem, for instance, if it

is applicable to one of the branches of the diamond industry. The committee are also empowered to prescribe certain conditions to be fulfilled by the competitor, before awarding the prize.

The full particulars may be examined at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.).

BELGIUM.

Supply of Fuel; Construction of Metallic Viaduct.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade have received from H.M. Consul-General at Antwerp copies of notices calling for tenders, as follows:—

1. Supply of 85 lots (5,200 metric tons each) of small coal, 20 lots (5,200 metric tons each) of briquettes, and one lot (300 metric tons) of screened coal to the Belgian State Railways. The adjudication will take place simultaneously at the Railway Stations at Charleroi and Liége on the 4th April, and tenders should be addressed to the Station-master at Charleroi-Sud, or at Liége Guillemins, from either of whom the special conditions of contract may be obtained. A copy of the conditions and form of tender may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.).

2. Construction of metallic viaduct at Mouscron station. The estimated cost of the work is 119,934 francs (about 4,797*l.*), a deposit of 8,400 francs (about 336*l.*) being required to qualify any tender. Conditions of contract (No. 45 of 1905) may be obtained from M. Isbecque, ingénieur en chef, directeur de service, Tournai, on payment of 1 franc 20 centimes per copy. Tenders will be opened at Tournai station on the 19th April.

Railway Plant.

The "Moniteur Belge" of 21st March, contains a notice inviting tenders, which will be opened at 11 a.m. on the 19th April, at the offices of the "Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer Vicinaux, 14, Rue de la Science, Brussels," for the construction of a branch line between Mouscron and Montaleux. The cost of the work is estimated at 39,540 fr. (about 1,581*l.*). A deposit of 4,000 fr. (about 160*l.*) is required to qualify any tender. Tenders in registered envelopes inscribed to the general manager of the railway at the above address, must be posted not later than the 18th April. Specifications, price 1 fr., may be obtained from the same address.

Openings for British Trade.

PORTUGAL.

Metallic Bridgework.

The "Diario do Governo" of 11th March contains a notice calling for tenders which will be opened at 1 p.m. on the 9th May at the Directorate-General of Public Works and Mines, Lisbon, for the construction of a bridge, with metallic platform, over the road from Mertola to Villa Real de Santo Antonio, in accordance with plans on view at the above-mentioned office. A deposit of 350 milreis (about 83*l.*) is required to qualify any tender. Local representation is necessary.

The "Diario" may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.).

PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA.

Railway Material.

A despatch has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at Lisbon (Mr. A. R. Peel), reporting that a contract was signed on the 10th March between the Portuguese Government and the Bank of Lisbon and the Azores for a loan of 2,000 contos of reis (400,000*l.*), the greater part of which is to be utilised for the construction of the Swaziland Railway.

Port Works.

In connection with the above, it appears from a Decree published in the "Diario do Governo" of 18th March that a portion of the loan is to be used for the purpose of port works at Lourenço Marques.

SPAIN.

Electric Lighting Installation.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 21st March contains a notice calling for tenders, which will be opened at noon on 10th April, before the Central Board of the Ministry of Marine, for the provision of an electric lighting installation on board the cruiser "Cataluña." A deposit of 9,500 pesetas (about 284*l.*) is required to qualify any tender.

N.B.—It is notified from H.M. Embassy at Madrid that a foreigner, when entering into contracts for the performance of public works in Spain, must renounce by public act all rights to which he might be entitled by virtue of the law of his own country in so far as his contract is concerned, and accept any administrative decisions that may be issued respecting questions arising from that contract.

In entering into such contracts a local agent is a practical necessity.

Openings for British Trade.

SPAIN—*continued.*

Electric Tramway Plant.

With reference to the notice on page 580 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 29th December, as to tenders for a concession for an electric tramway in Madrid on more favourable terms than those offered by the "Société Générale des Tramways de Madrid et d'Espagne," it is noted that the "Gaceta de Madrid" of 22nd March publishes an announcement to the effect that, no such tenders having been received, the concession has been granted to the "Société."

Railway Plant and Rolling Stock.

The "Gaceta" of 23rd March publishes a Decree authorising the Santander and Bilbao Railway Company to double the line between Bilbao and Las Arenas. The Company are under the obligation to make the following additions to their rolling stock:—5 locomotives, 10 trucks, 4 goods vans, and 20 passenger carriages.

Steam Roller.

The same issue of the "Gaceta" contains a Royal Order authorising the Commission of Public Works for the province of Guadalajara to expend 31,800 pesetas (about 950*l.*) on the purchase of a steam roller.

The "Gacetas" may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.).

ITALY.

Water Power Plant.

The "Bollettino delle Finanze" (Rome) of 22nd March, notifies an application, made to the Italian Minister of Public Works, by Messrs. Lucio Rossi and Ermenegildo Perini for an appropriation of water from the Lys waterfall, district of Sillianes, for the production of power for industrial purposes and irrigation. The energy to be produced is fixed at 8,784 horse power during four months of the year, and 3,627 horse power during the remainder. The cost of the installation is estimated at 1,400,000 lire (about 56,000*l.*).

Water Power Plant.

The "Bollettino" of 23rd March states that the Prefect of Brescia has granted Signor Giacomo Leali, civil engineer, Pignone, an appropriation of 15 cubic centimetres of water per second from the Gratacaso waterfall, for the production of electric power for lighting and other industrial purposes.

Openings for British Trade.

BULGARIA.

Salt.

A notification has been received at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, from the Bulgarian Diplomatic Agency in London, to the effect that, in virtue of a recent Law, the Bulgarian Government have acquired the monopoly of importing into Bulgaria all the salt of whatever kind indispensable for the needs of the country. As the Bulgarian Government propose shortly to import considerable quantities of salt, they are anxious to bring this under the notice of any and all English banks, companies and private persons who may wish to make offers for supplying the article in question.

All such offers should contain full particulars as regards prices and other terms, and, accompanied with samples, should be addressed directly to the Minister of Finance, Sophia, Bulgaria.

SERVIA.

Patent Flooring.

A communication has been received at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade from the British Vice-Consul at Belgrade (Hon. W. G. Thesiger, D.S.O.), in which he states that in the new military hospitals, now in course of construction at Belgrade, the question of flooring for the wards and passages is under consideration.

Wood is held to be undesirable as not being sufficiently easily cleaned, and linoleum is considered as not lasting enough. Some sort of flooring is required which shall have the properties of being antiseptic, easily cleaned and very durable.

Communications from British manufacturers of any patent flooring which fulfils these conditions and is suitable for hospitals, should be addressed to the British Vice-Consul, Belgrade.

Railway Material.

In his report on the trade of Servia for the year 1903, recently issued by the Foreign Office, the British Vice-Consul at Belgrade (Hon. W. G. Thesiger, D.S.O.) remarks that, as regards openings for British trade, note may be taken of the intention of the Government, at some not very distant date, to increase the railways of the country by branch lines. It has not yet been decided who is to be entrusted with the work of constructing the new lines; there is, however, a party who are desirous that the work should be carried out by Servian engineers and contractors, in which case there would be a large demand for the necessary material, the orders for which would be placed abroad.

Openings for British Trade.

SERVIA—*continued.*

Stationery, Paper, and Fancy Goods.

With regard to the general import trade of Servia, there are, says the Vice-Consul, several of the smaller branches of business to which British manufacturers might turn their attention with profit, and which are at present practically neglected. These are stationery and paper of all kinds, as well as the small fancy goods usually sold by stationers, such as inkstands, pocket books, paper knives, card cases, &c., which are sold to a considerable extent in Servia, but are, on the whole, of rather a common quality and marked by a decided want of taste.

Furniture.

The same might be said of furniture, which is rather of a cheap and over-ornamented style, and not distinguished by particularly good workmanship. The demand is not large, but something might be done in the way of comfortable armchairs, writing and tea tables and bookcases, at moderate prices.

China, Glassware, and Pottery.

Cheap china, glassware, and pottery has a considerable market in Belgrade, and an opening might, in the opinion of the Vice-Consul, be found for British goods in spite of the cost of carriage and the high tariff on such articles.

Haberdashery.

Mr. Thesiger points out, however, that the most favourable opportunity for British trade is in connection with haberdashery. British-made collars, cuffs, ties, hats and other similar articles would, he says, if better known, find a ready sale. The average qualities of such goods are usually a good deal below the prices at home, but cannot compare with them either in quality, colour or design.

Agricultural Implements and Machinery.

As regards agricultural implements and machinery, Mr. Thesiger advises manufacturers to take notice of the Co-operative Society for the promotion of Servian agriculture, which has its head quarters in Belgrade, and over 400 branch societies in the interior of the country. This Society collects information as to the requirements of the peasants, then imports what is wanted in the way of implements and machinery, and either sells or hires them out to the farmers. In order to encourage agriculture the Government allows this Society to import free of duty. In 1903 the orders of this Society amounted in value to 21,992*l.*, the chief items being draught animals, 9,241*l.*; breeding stock, 5,313*l.*; agricultural implements, 1,417*l.*; seeds, 481*l.*; forage, 4,671*l.*; sulphate of copper, 725*l.* (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,329.)

Steam Heating Apparatus.

The "Moniteur des Intérêts Matériels" (Brussels) of 22nd March, states that the adjudication will take place on the 10th April, at the Ministry of Public Works, Belgrade, of tenders for the installation of a steam heating apparatus.

Openings for British Trade.

CHILE.

Electric Tramway Plant.

The "Diario Oficial" of Chile of 15th February publishes a Decree granting Messrs. Manuel and Horacio Vaedes Ortúzar a concession to construct and work, for a term of ten years, an electric tramway between Santiago and San Bernardo.

The "Diario" may be seen at the offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C. any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.).

PERU.

Railway Material.

With reference to the article published in the "Board of Trade Journal" for 23rd March, pp. 541-4, on the subject of railway development in Peru, the Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, copy and translation of an Agreement entered into between the Minister of Public Works and Mr. H. D. L. MacDougall, for the construction and working of the railway from Lima to Pisco. Materials for the construction and working of the line may be imported free of customs duty.

The translation referred to may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.).

CHINA.

Canning Factory Machinery.

In a recent report, the United States Consul at Hangchow writes:—

"There is to be an opening for modern canning factory machinery and appliances in China before long; indeed, it may almost be said that there is an opening at the present time. The new industrial school being established in Hangchow by the gentry of this province includes in its curriculum training in the canning of fruits and vegetables on a large scale.

"There are reasons why factories of the sort are likely to succeed. While there are not many fruits in China which can be canned to advantage there are one or two varieties which can be put up for some classes of trade for far less money here than in other countries. The fruit is cheap, and labour can be had at rates impossible anywhere else than in Asia.

"In this part of China it is probable that some vegetables could be handled by canning factories with good returns, the low price of the vegetables and of labour offering advantages which would enable the projectors to enter markets now held by other nations. The Chinese themselves appreciate the possibilities in this direction, and the proposed school course in Hangchow is significant."

Openings for British Trade.

EXHIBITIONS.

FRANCE.

Agricultural Exhibitions at Bordeaux, Lyons, and Rouen.

According to a recent report of the German Consul in Paris, Agricultural Exhibitions are to be held in Bordeaux (27th May to 4th June), Lyons (3rd to 11th June), and Rouen (7th to 25th June), at which foreign machines and implements might be shown with advantage. For the Bordeaux Exhibition, machines and implements for vine culture, wine preparation, and dairying, would be especially suitable; for Lyons and Rouen, harvesting and dairying machines, the introduction of which would not entail very great expense.

Whilst the Exhibitions are mainly limited to French products, foreign machines, implements, &c., are admitted, provided they are introduced by representatives dwelling in France.

For the exhibition of foreign goods, application should be made on special forms, obtainable at the Ministry of Agriculture, 78, Rue de Varenne, Paris, the latest dates for the receipt of such being 20th April for Bordeaux; 3rd May for Lyons, and 17th May, for Rouen.

Free carriage for all exhibits has been granted by the French railway authorities.

The report adds that exhibits of motor machinery and implements, which could be utilised for agricultural purposes without revolutionising existing conditions, should have a specially favourable reception, as French farmers are said to be much interested in them.

BELGIUM.

Liége Exhibition, 1905.

With reference to the notice on p. 585 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 29th December, 1904, and to previous notices, respecting the International Exhibition to be held this year at Liége, information has now been received from the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom to the effect that the negotiations for further extension of the British Section in the Machinery Hall have fallen through, owing to the exhibition authorities having no more space at their disposal. The list of machinery exhibitors is therefore closed, but in the Industrial Hall there still remain a few spaces which intending exhibitors can secure by applying immediately to the Hon. Commissioner General (in succession to Mr. T. Cope, who has resigned), Mr. Imre Kiralfy, 19, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C. The exhibition will be opened in about a month from the present time.

Openings for British Trade.

BELGIUM—*continued.*

International Congress of Chambers of Commerce, &c.

The International Congress of Chambers of Commerce and of Commercial and Industrial Associations will be held at Liége on 7th, 8th, and 9th September, 1905, immediately after the autumnal meeting of the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom.

International Congress on Agricultural Machinery.

Information has also been received, through the Foreign Office, that an International Congress on Agricultural Machinery will be held at Liége during the course of the Exhibition.

ITALY.

Milan Exhibition, 1906.

With reference to the notice on p. 489 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 15th September last and to previous notices relating to the exhibition to be held at Milan in 1906, a despatch has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul at Milan (Mr. J. H. Towsey) forwarding a copy, in Italian, of the programme of the Agricultural Section.

International exhibits are invited for the section devoted to agricultural machinery and implements, and also for some classes of the animal shows.

Mr. Towsey adds that the programme is being translated into other languages, and that a copy of the English version will be forwarded later on.

The programme (in Italian) may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.).

BRITISH TRADE ABROAD.

Austrian Competition.—In his recent report to the Foreign Office, H.M. Consul at Trieste (Mr. H. L. Churchill) states that a new company is to be formed to be called the "Società Coloniale Austriaca," with head office at Trieste. The principal object of this company will be to trade direct with India and the British Colonies, and thus do away with the intermediary of British firms.

Trieste.—British traders are strongly advised by Mr. Churchill to have their catalogues, price lists, prospectuses, &c., printed in Italian, which is the language spoken in Trieste, and, in writing to the Consulate, they should always address their correspondence to "The British Consul," Trieste, Austria, and not to the Consul by name. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,328.)

Servia.—In his recent report to the Foreign Office, the British Vice-Consul at Belgrade (Hon. W. G. Thesiger, D.S.O.) writes:—

British Trade Abroad.

"One of the difficulties which British firms must take into account in dealing with Servia is the question of language. English is very little understood here, and the majority of advertisements which come into the country are merely thrown away. For this reason illustrated catalogues and price lists are preferable, as they arouse more interest, and to a certain extent explain themselves. The commercial language of Servia is German, and this at once gives a great advantage to the United Kingdom's two principal rivals for Servian trade—Austria-Hungary and Germany. These two countries possess, in common with most other European nations, a further advantage in the form of the metric system and decimal coinage. . . .

"To the smaller business houses it (the 'mystery of English weights and measures' and coinage) is a difficulty which, I think, often sends to Continental manufacturers orders which might have been placed in the United Kingdom. It is true such orders are usually small ones, but in the present condition of Servian commerce it is just these small first orders which should not be neglected. The spending capacity of the population is gradually increasing, and with the abolition of the distinctive national costume and the levelling up of Servian ways of living to the Continental standard the demand for European manufactures must increase also. . . . .

"To increase British trade here to any large extent it would seem necessary that there should be more direct communication between British manufacturers and business houses and Belgrade merchants. In the smaller lines of business a large proportion of orders appear to be obtained only through agents, usually Budapest or Vienna tradesmen, whose interest in promoting British trade is naturally of a secondary importance, and it frequently happens in the case of difficulties which are referred to the Consulate that a very great divergence is noticeable between the interests of the agent and of the house he represents.

"When one takes into consideration the disadvantages under which British advertisements suffer, the only way to remedy this is, I think, to make more use of commercial travellers. Although one naturally hesitates in criticising the business methods of those to whom trade has been a life-long experience, I believe, in this respect, more advantage might be taken of the opportunities which Servia offers. Commercial travellers in Belgrade are few and far between, though probably more come than are heard of at the Vice-Consulate. This is, I think, also to be regretted, as even when no assistance is required much may be learnt from men who are experts in their own line of business, both as to the ways in which Consular information can be of most use to British trade and as to general trade details which are otherwise difficult to obtain. Personally I shall always be very much obliged if all who are visiting Belgrade on business would, when they can spare the time, call at the Vice-Consulate whether they require official assistance or not." (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,329.)

TRADE OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND BRITISH POSSESSIONS.

The following summary table has been prepared in the Board of Trade, showing the total imports and exports of merchandise of the principal countries for which the particulars can be given up to December, 1904, inclusive, and referring in all cases to the same period, viz., the twelve months ended December. The corresponding figures for 1903 and 1902 are added for comparison:—

—	Imports (*see* NOTE that follows tables). Twelve Months ended December.			Exports (Domestic) (*see* NOTE that follows tables). Twelve Months ended December.		
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Germany	281,550,000	300,134,000	314,549,000	233,889,000	250,732,000	258,625,000
Belgium*	92,217,000	101,689,000	104,758,000	74,347,000	79,875,000	82,211,000
France...	175,761,000	192,048,000	181,458,000	170,087,000	170,090,000	179,020,000
Switzerland	43,518,000	46,366,000	48,406,000	34,725,000	35,276,000	35,334,000
Spain*...	31,927,000	33,971,000	33,355,000	30,366,000	33,437,000	33,913,000
Italy	71,030,000	74,478,000	74,325,000	58,897,000	60,697,000	64,608,000
Austria-Hungary ...	71,681,000	78,213,000	85,211,000	79,733,000	88,741,000	86,220,000
Egypt	15,200,000	17,189,000	21,096,000	18,517,000	20,048,000	21,353,000
United States... ...	201,941,000	207,395,000	215,814,000	277,764,000	303,677,000	297,031,000
Japan	27,509,000	32,102,000	37,588,000	25,922,000	28,994,000	38,011,000
British India... ...	52,547,000	54,646,000	63,652,000	81,662,000	95,392,000	105,007,000
United Kingdom ...	462,576,000	473,027,000	481,040,000	283,424,000	290,800,000	300,818,000

* Value of *principal* articles only.

A comparison of the total figures for the month ended 31st January is possible for four countries, as follows, viz.:—

—	Imports (*see* NOTE). Month ended January.			Exports (Domestic) (*see* NOTE). Month ended January.		
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1903.	1904.	1905.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Belgium*	7,104,000	9,386,000	8,148,000	5,198,000	5,264,000	5,935,000
France...	14,913,000	15,202,000	15,137,000	13,088,000	12,112,000	12,164,000
United States ...	17,745,000	17,206,000	20,492,000	27,415,000	29,175,000	25,304,000
United Kingdom ...	40,159,000	40,421,000	41,653,000	24,904,000	24,083,000	24,990,000

* Value of *principal* articles only.

NOTE.—In the case of Germany, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Italy, Austria-Hungary, Egypt, Japan, *and United Kingdom*, the import figures given in the above summaries represent imports for home consumption only, *i.e.*, excluding re-exports. In all cases the export figures are intended to represent exports of domestic produce. In most cases, however, they include a certain amount of "nationalised" goods, *i.e.*, goods originally imported for consumption, and which, if dutiable, have been charged with duty, but which are subsequently re-exported.

The latest figures available as regards other countries from which returns are received by the Board of Trade, are as follow:—

Trade of Foreign Countries and British Possessions.

—	Imports.			Exports (Domestic).		
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Russia* (10 months)...	45,899,000	52,266,000	51,702,000	72,483,000	84,009,000	80,659,000
Portugal (7 months)...	7,175,000	7,999,000	8,378,000	3,648,000	3,836,000	4,068,000
Mexico† (10 months)..	12,132,000	12,458,000	13,110,000	12,509,000	14,665,000	14,461,000
Canada (11 months)...	39,116,000	47,062,000	47,220,000	38,328,000	40,519,000	35,321,000

* European and Black Sea Frontiers.

† The values of the imports are stated in gold, and the dollar has been converted into English currency at the rate of 4*s*. The values of the exports are stated in silver, and the dollar has been converted into English currency for the years ended 30th June, 1902, 1903, 1904, at 1*s*. 9½*d*., 1*s*. 8*d*., and 1*s*. 10*d*. respectively; 1*s*. 11*d*. has been taken for the first four months (July to October) of the year 1904-5. The figures for Mexico include bullion and specie.

For detailed particulars regarding the trade of the several countries, reference should be made to the "Accounts relating to the Trade and Commerce of certain Foreign Countries and British Possessions," including figures received up to 28th February, published by Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, E.C.

QUICKSILVER PRODUCTION OF THE WORLD.

The following table, showing approximately the quicksilver production of the world during the past two years, is extracted from the "Engineering and Mining Journal" (New York):—

—	1903.	1904.
	Metric tons.	Metric tons.
United States	1,288	1,480
Austria—Idria Mines	520	536
Spain—Almaden	914	1,020
Italy	314	355
Total	3,036	3,391

A metric ton is, approximately, 29·6 flasks. The total for 1904 was, therefore, about 100,374 flasks. The only producing countries of any importance not included above, adds the "Journal," are Russia and Mexico, figures for which have not been received. In 1903 Mexico reported 190 and Russia 362 metric tons. Assuming that their output was about the same in 1904, and making an allowance for the smaller producers, such as Japan and Germany, a total for the year of 3,980 metric tons, or 134,460 flasks of quicksilver, would be arrived at.

TRADE OF THE ORANGE RIVER COLONY.

Six Months ended 31st December, 1904.

Referring to the notice on p. 69 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 12th January last, relating to the trade of the Orange River Colony, the Board of Trade have received copy of a return drawn up by the Collector of Customs at Bloemfontein, showing the value of the goods imported into and exported from the Colony during the six months ended the 31st December, 1904.

The following table shows the value of the principal articles **imported** during the period mentioned, as compared with the corresponding period of 1903:—

Articles.	Six Months ended 31st December, 1903.	Six Months ended 31st December, 1904.
	£	£
*Machinery, agricultural implements, &c.	254,000	401,000
South African produce	204,000	245,000
Articles of food and drink	126,000	147,000
Haberdashery, millinery, hosiery, &c.	181,000	141,000
Wood, raw and manufactured (*includes furniture*) ...	118,000	87,000
Corn and grain (*includes rice*)	191,000	81,000
Hardware, brass and copperware, &c.	78,000	73,000
Leather manufactures (*includes boots and shoes, saddlery and harness, &c.*)	67,000	56,000
Apparel and slops (*includes hats*)	74,000	54,000
Cotton manufactures	59,000	49,000
Iron, galvanised and corrugated	26,000	20,000
Clocks, watches, jewellery, and plated ware	17,000	20,000
Carriages and other kinds of vehicles	21,000	18,000
Provisions, oilman's stores, &c.	17,000	18,000
Blankets and sheets or rugs, cotton or woollen, &c. ...	23,000	17,000
Drugs and chemicals (*includes medicinal preparations*)	21,000	17,000
Oils and paints, &c....	15,000	17,000
Stationery and fancy goods	15,000	16,000
Soap and candles	11,000	12,000
Fodder	13,000	11,000
Tobacco of all kinds	12,000	10,000
Bicycles, tricycles, and accessories	15,000	9,000
Cocoa, chocolate, coffee and milk, and confectionery ...	10,000	9,000
Earthenware, china and glass	9,000	8,000
Woollen manufactures (*not blankets or rugs*)	11,000	7,000
All other articles	113,000	110,000
Total imports ... ... £	1,701,000	1,653,000

* Includes goods manufactured within the Customs Union.

The total value of the goods **exported** from the Orange River Colony during the six months ended 31st December, 1904, was 937,517*l.*, as compared with 590,283*l.* during the corresponding period of 1903.

REPORT OF INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION IN ORANGE RIVER COLONY.

The following particulars of the report of the Commission to enquire into the possibility of promoting new minor industries in the Orange River Colony, the appointment of which was notified on p. 524 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 17th March, 1904, are taken from a copy of the report received at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade from the Collector of Customs at Bloemfontein (Mr. J. H. Meiring) who acted as Chairman of the Commission:—

The report deals with the possibilities of the Orange River Colony in regard to the manufacture of woollen goods, leather, ink, drugs, cement, pottery, jam, chutney, sweets, &c. Prospects in most of these directions are said to be favourable, and it is recommended that the Government give financial assistance in the establishment of some of the industries mentioned. It is recommended, for instance, that the Government grant a bonus for the manufacture of blankets. It is recognised, however, that for a woollen industry to succeed the machinery must be of the most up-to-date kind and the production on a considerable scale. The Commission also recommend that the Government should offer a bonus to any approved manufacturer establishing a tannery in the colony and producing in the year a total of not less than 5,000 dressed skins and hides, which must include not less than 1,500 large hides, such bonus to be offered for five years and to be at the rate of 5s. per hide and 1s. per skin. Tannery prospects are considered good. One practical tanner told the Commission that leather could be manufactured as well in the Orange River Colony as in England, and at a cost certainly not higher. Another tanner considered that rough leathers for the manufacture of "veldt schoen" and harness would be the more profitable to tan in the colony. Local witnesses spoke highly of the value of the "elands-boontje," a root which grows freely on the veldt, as a tanning material equal to oak bark, and obtainable in practically unlimited quantities. The Commission are of opinion that measures should be taken to foster the cement industry, and suggest that any approved factory producing annually not less than 20,000 casks of cement of 400 lbs. each should be granted a bonus of 1,000*l.* a year for three years.

The Commission consider that there is ample scope for the development of the jam, canned fruit, pickles and sweet industry, provided the Government afford assistance in the initial stages. A manufacturer of these commodities, it is recognised, would be seriously handicapped by the high cost of labour, sugar, tin and packing material, and it is recommended, therefore, that a bonus of 200*l.* a year for a sale of 50,000 lbs., and of 1*d.* a lb. for any quantity sold in excess of 50,000 lbs., should be given to approved manufacturers of any or all of these articles, the bonus to be granted for five years. It is also recommended that plant and

Report of Industrial Commission in Orange River Colony.

necessaries for use in jam factories, &c., should be carried over the Central South African Railways at South African produce rates.

In regard to beet sugar, tobacco and pottery, it is recognised that preliminary work is necessary before capital can be attracted. It must be shown, it is said, that sufficient beet of the required sugar standard can be grown; the quantity of tobacco leaf must be increased and the quality improved; and experiments in potteryware must be undertaken.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Importation of Sugar from Spain prohibited.

An Order in Council has been published, dated 27th March, 1905, providing that whereas it appears from a Report of the Permanent Sugar Commission that a bounty on the production or export of sugars is granted in Spain, all sugar from Spain (not including molasses and sugar-sweetened products) shall (except in transit) be prohibited to be imported into the United Kingdom from and after the 3rd April next.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

Customs Decisions.

A copy of a Supplement (No. 40) to the Customs Tariff Guide, dated 25th January, 1905, has been received, giving Customs decisions relating to the rates of duty imposed on various articles imported into the Australian Commonwealth.

The following are the principal decisions given:—

Articles, and how classed.	Rates of Duty.
*Almanacs and calendars (advertising) with a strip of metal or wood at top and bottom, or not—	
As paper, advertising matter, or as manufactured stationery	3*d.* per lb. on whole weight, or 25 % *ad val.*, whichever higher.
Electrical machine used for the same purpose as a Roentgen Ray apparatus, used only by physicians—	
As instruments, &c., surgical	Free
Jars, tobacco, silver or gold—	
As jewellery	25 % *ad val.*
Knife, butter, with silver handle and plated blade—	
As metals—plated ware	20 % "
*Muslins, Madras, tasselled—	
As piece-goods—cotton and linen	5 % "
Polish, knife, composed entirely of emery powder, in bulk or otherwise—	
As "other articles"	Free
Tea cloths, in lengths marked for cutting off—	
As apparel, &c., towels, cotton or linen	15 % *ad val.*
Yeast, granular—	
As foaming powders and liquids	20 % "

* Revised decision.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH—*continued.*

Importation of Essence of Lager Beer Prohibited.

A copy of the "Commonwealth of Australia Gazette" for 18th February last has been received, containing a Proclamation which was issued by the Governor-General of Australia on 9th February, and which provides for the prohibition of the importation of "Essence of Lager Beer" into the Commonwealth.

NEW ZEALAND.

Prohibition of the Manufacture of Certain Articles in Bond.

The "New Zealand Gazette" of 12th January contains a copy of a Commissioner's Order (No. 762) prohibiting under section 9 of the "Customs and Excise Act, 1895," the manufacture of the undermentioned spirits and tinctures in bond in the Colony:—

As articles made under the heading of "medicinal spirits"—

Spirit of lavender, spirit of lemon, spirit of myrcia, spirit of orange, compound spirit of orange, compound spirit of juniper.

As articles made under the heading of tinctures—

Tincture of lemon, tincture of sweet orange peel.

NATAL.

Amended Regulations under Adulteration of Food Act, 1901.

With reference to the notice which appeared on p. 174 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for 26th January last relating to the regulations laid down by Proclamation No. 137 of 1904, under the Natal Adulteration of Food Act of 1901, the Board of Trade have now received a copy of a further Proclamation (No. 26 of 1905) issued by the Governor of Natal on 17th February, 1905, amending the above-mentioned regulations as follows:—

1. The regulations contained in my aforesaid Proclamation in reference to the labelling, marking, and sale of condensed milk, margarine, cheese or filled cheese, cream and cream cheese, shall not be brought into force until the 1st May, 1905, in regard to articles on which duty shall have been paid to the Customs before the 1st February, 1905.

2. The aforesaid regulations shall not apply to goods imported for sale and use in the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope, the Transvaal Colony, the Orange River Colony, and Basutoland.

3. On and after the 1st February, 1905, all importations of condensed milk, margarine, cheese or filled cheese, cream and cream cheese, not marked or labelled in compliance with the aforeeaid regulations, shall be warehoused in a Customs warehouse for transit to the adjoining Colonies, or for exportation only, subject to the regulations respecting transit and exportation, and shall not be cleared or removed from bond for any other purpose.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

BRITISH GUIANA.

New Customs Tariff.

The Board of Trade have received, from the Government Secretary of British Guiana, a copy of the "Customs Duties Ordinance, 1905" (No. 4 of 1905), which was assented to by the Governor of the Colony on 2nd March, 1905.

The present Ordinance, which is to remain in force until 31st March, 1906, unless otherwise enacted by the Combined Court of the Colony, repeals the Customs Duties Ordinance No. 1 of 1904, but it, at the same time, re-imposes, with some few minor alterations, certain duties previously in force in British Guiana.

The following are the principal alterations effected in the Customs Tariff by the new Ordinance:—

Articles.	Import duties.	
	Old rates.	New rates.
Calcium carbide—		
In tins or packages weighing not more than 1 lb. Per lb.	2 cents	3 cents*
In large packages, when imported with the permission of the Comptroller of Customs Per lb.	10 ,,	
Pitch and Tar—		
The rate of duty—viz. :—50 cts. per barrel—is unaltered, but the present Ordinance defines the barrel not to exceed 200 lbs. in the case of "pitch" and 30 gallons in that of "tar."		
Tobacco in leaf—		
If in packages containing not less than *800* lbs.—		
Containing 10 lbs. or more of moisture in every 100 lbs. weight thereof... ... ...Per lb.	50 ,,	—
Containing less than 10 lbs. of moisture in every 100 lbs. weight thereof ... ...Per lb.	60 ,,	—
If in packages containing less than *800* lbs.—		
Containing 10 lbs. or more of moistare in every 100 lbs. weight thereof... ... ...Per lb.	60 ,,	—
Containing less than 10 lbs. of moisture in every 100 lbs. weight thereof ... ...Per lb.	80 ,,	—
Tobacco in leaf—		
If in packages containing not less than *400* lbs.—		
Losing 35 lbs. in every 100 lbs. weight thereof when dried at a temperature of 212° F. Per lb.	—	50 cents
Losing less than 35 lbs. in every 100 lbs. weight thereof when dried at the temperature aforesaid ... ...Per lb.	—	50 ,,
And *additional* for every 2 lbs. less lost when so dried ... ...Per lb.	—	3 ,,
If in packages containg less than *400* lbs.		
Losing 35 lbs. in every 100 lbs. weight when dried at a temperature of 212° F. ...Per lb.	—	60 ,,
Losing less than 35 lbs. in every 100 lbs. weight thereof when dried at the temperature aforesaid ... ...Per lb.	—	60 ,,
And *additional* for every 2 lbs. less lost when so dried... ... ...Per lb.	—	3 ,,
Furniture and ornaments proved to the satisfaction of the Comptroller of Customs to be imported for any place of worship of the Christian religion in the Colony.	15 % *ad val.*	Free

* If imported in larger quantities than 1 lb., must be in "water-tight metal packages."

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

PROTECTORATE OF SOUTHERN NIGERIA.

Prohibition of the Exportation of Cotton Seed.

A copy of the "Customs Proclamation, 1905" (No. 2 of 1905), dated 13th February last, has been received, which prohibits, as from 1st March, 1905, the exportation of "cotton seed" from the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria.

BARBADOS.

Facilities granted for importation of Rifles, &c., in certain cases.

The Board of Trade have received, from the Colonial Secretary at Barbados, a copy of an Act (No. 6 of 1905), which was assented to by the Governor on 28th February last, and which provides for the free importation of the following articles into the Colony, viz. :—

"All rifles, parts of rifles, rifle accessories, and all rifle ammunition specially imported exclusively for the objects and purpose of the Barbados Rifle Association, by or for the use of any member thereof, on the certificate to that effect of the Secretary for the time being of such Association."

RUSSIA.

Tea in Transit to Kerki *viâ* Batoum, &c.

With reference to the notice which appeared at p. 213 of the "Journal" for the 3rd November last, the Board of Trade are now in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that the Russian Minister of Finance has authorised the transportation of black and green teas by transit route, *viâ* Batoum, Baku and Krasnovodsk to the Kerki Custom House, on the same conditions as those applying to green teas conveyed *viâ* Novorossisk, Petrovsk, and Krasnovodsk.

Tariff Classifications.

The Board are also in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that the Russian Customs Department have recently notified the following Decisions affecting the application of the Customs Tariff.

Money boxes are to be dutiable under No. 215 of the Tariff as toys.

Articles of copper and its alloys in relief, not by way of ornament, but necessitated by the character or purpose of the articles (*e.g.* letters and designs for book-binding work, board-presses, stamps, &c.), are to pay duty under No. 149 (1) of the Tariff at the rate of 6 rbls. 48 cop. per poud (4¼*d.* per lb.).

Machine belting.—Only such belting is to be regarded as forming part of machinery (agricultural or other), as serves as conductor of motion for the several parts which enter directly into the composition of the mechanism. Such belting must have the ends sewn together and fit the axles for which it is intended, or else be

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

furnished with some device for securing the ends together at a proper distance from one axle to another.

Horn sawn into the form of handles is to be dutiable under No. 215 (2) of the Tariff, at the rate of 60 cop. per funt (1*s.* 7*d.* per lb.).

"*Haertemehle*," a composition of horn filings, common salt, and sal ammoniac, is to be dutiable under No. 112 of the Tariff at the rate of 2 rbls. 25 cop. per poud gross weight (1½*d.* per lb.).

Ladies' gold watches in the form of medallions with embellishments of precious stones, are to be dutiable under No. 171 (2) of the Tariff at the rate of 4 rbls. 50 cop. (9*s.* 6*d.*) each.

RUSSIA—FINLAND.

Tariff Alterations.

The Board of Trade have received information, through the Foreign Office, to the effect that the Imperial Finnish Senate has decreed the following alterations in the Finnish Customs Tariff:—

The duty on *salted herrings and sprats* has been raised from 2 to 5 Finnish marks per 100 kilogs. (from 9¾*d.* to 2*s.* 0½*d.* per cwt.).

Gun and revolver cartridges, consisting of cases and powder, but without bullet or shot, are to be dutiable at the rate of 70 Finnish marks per 100 kilogs. (3*d.* per lb.).

From the 1st January, 1906, *telegraph posts, sleepers, laths, pit-props, pulp wood, &c.*, exported from Finland, are to pay an export duty of 45 pennis per cubic metre (3¼*d.* per cubic yard).

NETHERLANDS.

Import Duty on Certain Goods containing Sugar.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a translation of a Dutch Royal Decree, dated 3rd March, 1905, fixing at the under-mentioned rates the import duties on honey-sweetening, biscuit-honey, caramel butter, caramel paste, Clarnico paste, Nucoa paste, Nucoa butter, and other goods of the same kind containing sugar, which are used as accessories in the confectionery trade:—

	Duty per 100 kilogs.	English equivalent. Per cwt.	
	Florins.	s.	d.
When the amount of sugar contained therein—			
Does not exceed 20 per cent. ...	5.50 ...	4	8
Exceeds 20 per cent., but does not exceed 50 per cent. ...	13.50 ...	11	5¼
Exceeds 50 per cent.	25.00 ...	21	2

The importer of these articles is required to state in his declaration to which of the above-mentioned classes the imported goods belong.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

ITALY.

Forthcoming "General" Tariff Alterations.

The Italian "Gazzetta Ufficiale" for the 9th inst. contains the text of a Royal Decree, dated 2nd March, introducing the undermentioned reductions in the "General" Customs Tariff of Italy. The new duties are to come into force on the 1st July next, and to terminate at the same time as the recently concluded Commercial Treaty between Italy and Switzerland. It will be observed that these reduced "general" duties are in several cases lower than the corresponding "conventional" duties as fixed by that Treaty ‖ :—

(NOTE.—Additions to the text of the Tariff are indicated by *italic* type.)

Tariff No.	Articles.	Rates of Duty under the "General" Tariff. At present.	Rates of Duty under the "General" Tariff. From 1st July, 1905.
		Per 100 kilogs Lire cts.	Per 100 kilogs Lire cts.
13	Note added.—*Cane molasses, for use in the manufacture of coffee substitutes, is admitted free of duty, if imported in conformity with regulations to be drawn up by the Minister of Finance.*		
19	Cocoa—		
(*a*)	In the bean...	100 00	30 00
105	Cotton yarn, single—		
(*a*)	Unbleached, measuring per half kilog.—		
	(2) More than 10,000 up to 20,000 metres	24 00	18 00
	(4) More than 30,000 up to 40,000 metres	36 00	30 00*
112	Cotton tissues, unbleached, plain—		
(*a*)	Weighing 13 kilogs. or more per 100 sq. metres, and having in a square of 5 mm., in warp and weft—		
	(1) 27 elementary threads or less ...	62 00	60 00
	(2) More than 27 and up to 38 elementary threads	74 00	70 00
(*b* i.)	Weighing 11 kilogs. or more, but less than 13 kilogs. per 100 square metres, and having in a square of 5 mm., in warp and weft—		
	(1) 27 elementary threads or less ..	84 00	60 00†
	(2) More than 27 up to 38 elementary threads	100 00	70 00‡
	(3) More than 38 elementary threads	100 00	90 00

* The "conventional" duty on this yarn fixed by the new Treaty with Switzerland is 33 lire per 100 kilogs.

† "Conventional" rate established for tissues of this class by new Treaty with Switzerland—67 lire per 100 kilogs.

‡ "Conventional" rate established for tissues of this class by new Treaty with Switzerland—78 lire per 100 kilogs.

‖ A statement showing the principal alterations introduced into the Italian Tariff by this Treaty has been published in recent issues of the "Board of Trade Journal."

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

ITALY—*continued.*

Tariff No.	Articles.	Rates of Duty under the "General" Tariff. At present.	Rates of Duty under the "General" Tariff. From 1st July, 1905.
112 (*b* ii.)	Cotton tissues, unbleached, plain—*contd.*—	Per 100 kilogs Lire cts.	Per 100 kilogs Lire cts.
	Weighing 7 kilogs. or more, but less than 11 kilogs. per 100 square metres, and having in a square of 5 mm., in warp and weft—		
	(1) 27 elementary threads or less...	84 00	65 00*
	(2) More than 27 up to 38 elementary threads	100 00	75 00†
	(3) More than 38 elementary threads	100 00	90 00
	The Minister of Finance is empowered to concede to embroiderers the duty-free importation of an annually determined quantity of unbleached plain cotton tissues, to be embroidered (cambric, nanzook, muslin), and to cotton tissue printers the annual importation at the rate of 15 lire per 100 kilogs., of a determined quantity of unbleached plain cotton tissues weighing 7 kilogs. or more, but less than 12 kilogs. per 100 square metres, and having not more than 38 elementary threads in warp and weft in a square of 5 mm., to be printed as handkerchiefs or fichus.		
	The regulations and conditions governing the importation of such tissues under this special régime, will be drawn up by the Minister of Finance.		
163	Lace and tulles (including crapes and blondes) of silk, or mixed with silk in a proportion of not less than 12 per cent.—		
(*a*)	Plain—	Per kilog.	Per kilog.
	(1) Tulles in the piece...	15 00	10 00
	(2) Other		15 00
		Per 100 *kilogs*	*Per* 100 *kilogs*
210	Scrap, scales, and filings of cast or wrought-iron or steel	1 00	1 00 less the export duty paid in the country of origin.
213*c*	Note added— *Sheets and plates of iron or steel ½ mm. or less in thickness, destined for the manufacture of dynamo-electric machines, or of electric transformers, are admitted duty free in accordance with regulations to be drawn up by the Minister of Finance.*		

* "Conventional" rate established for tissues of this class by new Treaty with Switzerland—67 lire per 100 kilogs.

† "Conventional" rate established for tissues of this class by new Treaty with Switzerland—78 lire per 100 kilogs.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

ITALY—JAPAN.

Further Extension of Reciprocal Most-Favoured-Nation Treatment.

The "Bollettino di Legislazione e Statistica Doganale e Commerciale" for December last contains the text of Diplomatic Notes exchanged between the Italian and Japanese Governments, extending the reciprocal accord of most-favoured-nation treatment in regard to imports until the 31st December, 1905.

TURKEY.

New Sanitary Regulations respecting the Importation of Hides and Skins.

With reference to the notice which appeared at p. 505 of the "Journal" for the 10th December, 1903, relative to the sanitary regulations governing the importation of hides and skins at Turkish ports, the Board of Trade are now in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a copy of a revised set of regulations which have recently been issued by the Sanitary Administration of the Ottoman Empire.

Fresh hides or skins, arriving in a good state of preservation, are henceforth to be admitted, for introduction into a tannery, even when coming from a country infected with epidemics of cholera, plague, or yellow fever.

Prepared hides or skins, coming from countries where cattle diseases (*épizooties*) prevail, may henceforth be admitted not only at a lazaret but also at a port where there exists a Sanitary Medical Officer and a tannery. The importation of hides or skins, coming from a country where anthrax is prevalent, is prohibited.

A copy of these new regulations (in French) may be seen on application to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall-street, E.C., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Customs Decisions.

The following is a list of some decisions affecting the application of the United States Customs Tariff which have recently been issued by the Treasury Department at Washington:—

Onions—weight per bushel.—The duty of 40 cents per bushel, imposed upon onions by paragraph 249 of the Tariff, is to be assessed upon the basis of 57 pounds to the bushel.

Reciprocity Agreement.—Paintings.—To be entitled to the reduced rate of duty provided for in the Reciprocity Agreement between the United States and France, an oil painting must have

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—*continued.*

been painted in and imported from France. But it is not necessary that such painting should have been painted by a French artist.

Figs, whole, preserved in sugar, molasses, spirits, or in their own juices, are dutiable under paragraph 263 of the Tariff, at the rate of 1 cent per lb. and 35 per cent. *ad valorem,* with an additional duty on any alcohol contained in excess of 10 per cent.; and not under paragraph 264 as "figs," which in commercial significance means *dried* figs.

Borax, in which there has been mechanically mixed sufficient carbonate of soda to reduce the percentage of anhydrous boracic acid to less than 36 per cent, is dutiable at the rate of 5 cents per lb., under the provision in paragraph 11 of the Tariff for borax, and not under the provision in the same paragraph for borate of soda containing not more than 36 per cent. of anhydrous boracic acid.

Seizure and fine for fraudulent entry.—Where goods are seized for fraudulent or false entry under section 9 of the Customs Administrative Act of 10th June, 1890, and released upon the payment of a fine equal to the amount of the duty, the importers are not thereby relieved from the payment of the duty.

Re-importation of American goods previously exported.—Paragraph 483 of the Tariff, providing for the free entry of American goods previously exported, applies only when the article imported is the identical article exported. Thus, American barley malted abroad cannot be imported free of duty.

Flitters, produced by reducing thin sheets of composition metal by mechanical means to a very fine state, and employed to sprinkle over surfaces on which it is desired to produce a glittering effect, is not free of duty under paragraph 533 of the Tariff as composition metal, but is dutiable under paragraph 193 as an unenumerated metal manufacture. [This reverses the decision published at p. 267 of the "Journal" for 12th May, 1904, but upholds the decision published at p. 85 of the issue for the 11th July, 1901.]

Pineapples, canned, containing an amount of sugar insufficient to act as a preservative and serving only as a flavouring, are dutiable at the rate of 25 per cent. *ad valorem,* under paragraph 263 of the Tariff, as "pineapples preserved in their own juice"; and not at the higher rate provided in the same paragraph for "fruits preserved in sugar." [This modifies a decision published at pp. 214-5 of the "Journal" for the 3rd November, 1904.]

Also the following—

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—*continued.*

Articles.	Paragraph of the Tariff under which dutiable.	Rate of Duty.
		Dols. Cts.
Hides of the *wild* buffalo; as hides not provided for	664	Free.
**Metal beads, temporarily strung;* dutiable as manufactures of metal, not specially provided for	193	45 % *ad val.*
Tennis gut, a manufactured article used to make strings for tennis rackets; dutiable as catgut unmanufactured	517	Free.
Moulders wooden patterns, used to form the mould in the sand into which molten metal is poured to produce castings for machinery; dutiable as manufactures of wood not specially provided for	208	35 % *ad val.*
Ostrich and condor feathers, crude, and not dressed, coloured, or otherwise advanced or manufactured in any manner; dutiable as feathers and downs...	425	15 % „
Shell cameos made of paste; dutiable as imitations of precious stones	435	20 % „
Split pearls, also *pearls pierced and strung merely for convenience in transportation*; dutiable by similitude as "pearls in their natural state" ...	436	10 % „

* Revised decision.

Drawback on Flour made wholly from Imported Wheat.

A recent Circular of the United States Treasury Department lays down the regulations under which flour manufactured *wholly* from imported wheat will be entitled to drawback on exportation in respect of the duty paid on the wheat used. The regulations are similar to those in force for flour made from mixed American and imported wheat. (*See* the "Journal" for the 16th March, p. 511.)

NICARAGUA.

Increase of Import Duties on Tobacco.

The Board of Trade have received from H.M. Consul-General at Managua a translation of a Nicaraguan Presidential Decree, increasing the import duties on raw and manufactured tobacco to four and eight dollars per kilog., respectively.

On the Atlantic coast of the Republic these amounts are payable in silver, and, at the Custom Houses in the rest of the country, in gold or national paper money, in accordance with the Law of the 14th May, 1904.*

This Decree was to come into force on the 12th February last.

* *See* "Board of Trade Journal" for the 24th November, 1904, and the 12th January, 1905.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

JAPAN.

Forthcoming Increase of Import Duties (*continued from p.* 554 *of last week's "Journal"*).

Tariff No.	Articles.	Tariff Rates.	Increase under Law of 28th December, 1904.
		Yens.	
299	Sugar, up to No. 14, inclusive, Dutch standard in colour	100 kins 0·271	25 % *ad val.**
300	Sugar, refined—		
	From No. 15 to No. 20, inclusive, Dutch standard in colour	„ 0·748	No surtax*
	Above No. 20, Dutch standard in colour	„ 0·827	
301	Sugar, rock candy	„ 2·449	
302	Molasses	„ 0·131	20 % *ad val.**
303	Syrup	*ad val.* 10 %	20 „ *
305	Cotton thread	„ 15 „	10 „
306	Bookbinders' cloth	yard 0·026	10 „
339	Woollen felt	„ 0·061	15 „
344	Silk threads, not otherwise provided for ...	*ad val.* 20 %	10 „
345	„ crape, Chinese	yard 0·277	10 „
346	„ pongee, Chinese (Kenchu)	„ 0·058	10 „
347	„ satins, Chinese	„ 0·432	10 „
348	„ „ figured Chinese	„ 0·285	10 „
350	„ tissues, and silk and cotton tissues, embroidered	*ad val.* 25 %	10 „
351	All other silk tissues, pure or mixed with other materials, the silk, however, predominating in weight	„ 20 „	10 „
353	Flax or linen thread	kin 0·202	10 „
360	Carpets and carpetings, felt	yard 0·073	15 „
365	Curtains—		
	Of silk, wholly or in part	*ad val.* 25 %	15 „
	All other	„ 20 „	10 „
366	Elastic boot webbing—		
	Of silk in part	yard 0·855	15 „
	All other	„ 0·470	10 „
367	Elastic braids and cords	*ad val.* 15 %	10 „
368	Handkerchiefs—		
	Of cotton, single	yard 0·025	15 „
	Of linen, or of linen and cotton, single	*ad val.* 15 %	15 „
	Of silk, or of lace	„ 25 „	20 „
369	Mosquito nets of all kinds	„ 20 „	15 „
370	Leather cloth, for furniture	yard 0·056	15 „
371	Oil cloths, and linoleum cloths for floors ...	„ 0·119	15 „
372	Table cloths or covers—		
	Of silk, wholly or in part	*ad val.* 25 %	20 „
	All other	„ 20 „	15 „
373	Towels of all kinds, single or in the piece ...	„ 15 „	15 „
375	Twine of cotton, flax, hemp, or jute ...	„ 10 „	5 „

* The following additional *consumption* duties are also levied on imported sugar :—

Class I.	1	yen per 100 kins.
„ II.	3	„ „
„ III.	3·3	„ „
„ IV.	3·7	„ „

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

JAPAN—*continued.*

Tariff No.	Articles.	Tariff Rates.	Increase under Law of 28th December, 1904.
376	Threads of all kinds not otherwise provided for	*ad val.* Yens. 15 %	10 % *ad val.*
378	All other manufactures of tissues—		
	Of silk, wholly or in part	„ 25 „	20 „
	All other	„ 20 „	15 „
379	Cigars		
380	Cigarettes		
381	Snuff	„ 150 „	100 „
382	Tobacco, cut		
384	All other prepared tobacco		
388*	Chinese alcoholic liquors of all kinds—		
	Fermented	„ 100 „	30 „
393*	Saké, resembling the home brewage ...	„ 100 „	30 „
399	Wines or fermented liquors of all other kinds	litre 0·275	litre 0·050
	When the quantity of pure alcohol, sp. gr. 0·7947 at 15° C., contained, exceeds 50 % in the original volume, 4 sens per 10 litres are to be added for every increase of 1 %.		
400	Aloeswood	100 kins 12·581	10 % *al val.*
401	Amber—		
	Unworked	*ad val.* 10 %	10 „
	Worked	„ 20 „	10 „
403	Animals other than cattle, horses, asses, mules, sheep, goats, and domestic fowls ...	„ 10 „	5 „
404	Asbestos, in sheets or boards...	100 kins 1·268	5 „
405	Bamboo, unworked	*ad val.* 5 %	5 „
406	Beltings of leather, caoutchouc or canvas, and hose of caoutchouc or canvas, for machinery	„ 10 „	5 „
407	Billiard tables and accessories	„ 30 „	10 „
408	Blasting gelatine and other similar explosive compounds, including detonators and fuses	„ 15 „	10 „
409	Bricks and tiles for building purposes ...	„ 10 „	5 „
410	Brushes and brooms of all kinds	„ 20 „	10 „
411	Canes, sticks and whips	„ 20 „	10 „
413	Carriages, bicycles, tricycles and parts thereof...	„ 25 „	10 „
417	Cars and drays for conveyance of commodities	„ 10 „	5 „
418	Celluloid—		
	Worked	„ 20 „	10 „
420	Chalk and whitening	100 kins 0·245	5 „
421	Charcoal, wood and animal	*ad val.* 5 %	5 „
422	Clay of all kinds	„ 5 „	5 „
424	Coke	ton 1·557	5 „
425	Corals, worked or otherwise	*ad val.* 30 „	10 „

* Subject to the duties on alcohol (No. 69 of the Tariff) when the quantity of pure alcohol contained exceeds 65 per cent. in volume at the temperature of 15 degrees centigrade.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

JAPAN—*continued.*

Tariff No.	Articles.	Tariff Rates.	Increase under Law of 28th December, 1904.
426	Cordage and ropes of flax, hemp, jute, for rigging or otherwise...	Yens. 100 kins 2·847	5 % *ad val.*
429	Diamonds, glaziers'	*ad val.* 10 %	5 „
431	Emery powder	„ 5 „	5 „
432	„ cloth and sand paper...	„ 5 „	5 „
433	„ wheels, and grind stones of all kinds	„ 5 „	5 „
435	Fireworks of all kinds	„ 30 „	10 „
438	Flowers and blossoms, artificial	„ 25 „	10 „
439	Frames for pictures, and moulding	„ 20 „	10 „
440	Funori (*Gleopertis intricata*)	100 kins 0·286	5 „
441	Furniture, new and old, not otherwise provided for	*ad val.* 20 %	10 „
442	Games, all articles of, used in playing tennis, cricket, chess, &c., not otherwise provided for	„ 25 „	10 „
443	Glue, common	100 kins 0·886	5 „
444	Gun-cotton	*ad val.* 15 %	10 „
445*a*	Gunpowder, smokeless	„ 15 „	10 „
445*b*	Gunpowder of all other kinds	100 kins 4·944	
446	Gypsum	„ 0·064	5 „
448	Ivory, manufactures of, not otherwise provided for	*ad val.* 20 %	15 „
449	Jewellery	„ 35 „	10 „
451	Labels for bottles, tins, &c.	„ 15 „	5 „
452	Lamps and lanterns, and parts thereof ...	*ad val.* 20 %	10 „
454	Leather, manufactures of, not otherwise provided for	„ 20 „	10 „
455	Malt	100 kins 0·581	5 „
456	Matches of all kinds	*ad val.* 20 %	10 „
457	Matting, China, in rolls of 40 yards... ...	roll 1·004	5 „
458	Matting, cocoanut fibre	sq. yd. 0·093	5 „
459	Mats and matting, all other	*ad val.* 20 %	5 „
463	Paintings, in oil or water colours, lithographs, chromo-lithographs, photographs, calligraphical albums, and all other paintings, pictures, and calligraphy, not otherwise provided for	„ 25 „	10 „
464*a*	Pitch	100 kins 0·149	5 „
464*b*	Wood-tar	„ 0·317	
464*c*	Coal-tar	*ad val.* 5 %	
465	Plaster of Paris	100 kins 0·155	5 „
466	Playing cards of all kinds	*ad val.* 35 %	10 „
467	Plumbago or blacklead	100 kins 0·995	5 „
468	Pottery including porcelain, and earthenware, not otherwise provided for	*ad val.* 20 %	10 „
469	Precious stone, and pearls	„ 35 „	10 „
472	Putty	100 kins 0·219	5 „
473	Rattans, split or otherwise	100 „ 0·482	5 „
474	Saddles, bridles and harness	*ad val.* 25 %	10 „
475	Sandalwood	100 kins 1·085	10 „
476	Shoe-blacking of all kinds	*ad val.* 20 %	5 „
477	Smokers' articles (articles for use in smoking opium are excluded)...	„ 30 „	10 „

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

JAPAN—*continued.*

Tariff No.	Articles.	Tariff Rates.	Increase under Law of 28th December, 1904.
		Yens.	
479	Soap-stone, in lump or powder	100 kins 0·127	5 % *ad val.*
480	Sparterie, for making hats	*ad val.* 10 %	5 „
481	Sponges	„ 5 „	5 „
482	Stones and slates, not otherwise provided for—		
	Rough or unworked for building purposes, &c....	„ 5 „	5 „
	Worked, for ornamental works or furniture, &c.	„ 20 „	10 „
	Statues, and other stone sculptured or engraved	„ 25 „	10 „
483	Submarine telegraphic cables and underground telegraphic lines or cables... ...	„ 10 „	10 „
484	Timber, santalum (Shitan)	100 kins 0·166	5 „
487	Toilet or dressing cases	*ad val.* 25 %	10 „
489	Tortoise-shell, manufactures of	„ 25 „	10 „
490	Toys of all kinds	„ 25 „	10 „
491	Trunks, portmanteaux and travelling or courier bags	„ 20 „	10 „
492	Umbrellas, parasols and sunshades—		
	Of silk wholly or in part...	„ 25 „	15 „
	All other	„ 20 „	10 „
493	Umbrella sticks and handles, except those made of gold or silver	„ 20 „	5 „
494	Vessels, steam or sailing, and boats... ...	„ 5 „	5 „
495	Wares of santalum or ebony wood	„ 25 „	10 „
496	All articles, raw or unmanufactured, not enumerated in the Tariff (except hat shapes, hat leathers, and steel strips for watch springs and umbrella ribs)... ...	„ 10 „	5 „
497	All articles manufactured, wholly or in part, not enumerated in the Tariff ...	„ 20 „	10 „

Customs Decisions. The following is the substance of two recent Decisions of the Japanese Minister for Finance affecting the classification of articles under the Japanese Customs Tariff:—

Paper cutting machines are dutiable under No. 17 of the Tariff at the rate of 10 per cent. *ad val.*

Gas holders are also dutiable under No. 17 of the Tariff at the rate of 10 per cent. *ad val.*

SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Proposed Reductions in Railway Rates from Coast Ports to Johannesburg.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade have received from their Correspondent at Port Elizabeth (Mr. J. S. Neave) copy of a statement showing the proposed reductions in railway rates from Coast Ports to Johannesburg, which, subject to the consent of the various South African Legislatures, will come into operation on the 1st May next.

The statement may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.).

New Rates at Durban for Forwarding Goods.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch have also been notified by their Correspondent at Durban (Mr. A. D. C. Agnew) that a notice has been issued by the General Manager of the Natal Government Railways to the effect that from the 1st March, 1905, the charge made by forwarding agents at the Port of Natal for forwarding agency and delivery of goods to the Railway Department will not exceed an all-round maximum rate of 2*s.* per ton. For mine and other machinery the charge will not exceed 1*s.* per ton. In both cases the weight is either one of 40 cubic feet, or 2,240 pounds, according to the bill of lading. These rates will only apply to consignments of two tons and over.

A list of the forwarding agents at Point and Durban, who have signified their concurrence in the new rates, may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.).

GOLD COAST.

Reduction in Wharfage Dues.

The Gold Coast "Government Gazette" of 25th February publishes the text of an Order in Council, by which the wharfage dues payable on goods exported from the harbour of Sekondi are reduced from 2*s.* to 1*s.* per ton or part of a ton of goods shipped from a wharf in the said harbour.

Rules for the Regulation of Traffic and Carriage of Goods on the River Volta.

The same issue of the "Gazette" contains a set of rules approved by the Governor with respect to the regulation of traffic and the carriage of goods on the River Volta.

The "Gazette" may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.).

Shipping and Transport.

FRENCH INDO-CHINA.

Completion of Vinh-Hanoi Railway.

The "Dépêche Coloniale" of 19th March reports that the final section of the Vinh-Hanoi railway was inaugurated by the Governor-General of French Indo-China on the 17th March. This line, which is 327 kiloms. long, will, it is anticipated greatly stimulate trade between Annam and Tonkin.

ARGENTINA.

Freight Rates for Meat and Butter to the United Kingdom.

Despatches have been received from H.M. Consul at Buenos Aires (Mr. A. Carnegie Ross, C.B.), furnishing the following particulars of freight rates for meat and butter from Argentina to ports in the United Kingdom:—

It is not the custom to give through bills of lading from inland towns in Argentina by rail and steamer to British ports or British inland towns. Each section of the journey is paid for separately.

There is no occasion for such through freights in the case of meat, as all the freezing establishments in the Argentine Republic are in seaports. There are none inland.

The nominal freight on frozen meat from Argentine ports to ports in the United Kingdom is $\frac{1}{2}d.$ per pound avoirdupois (net weight). The freight on chilled meat is about $\frac{1}{6}d.$ per lb. more than that on frozen meat.

The freight on butter from Argentina to United Kingdom is about $\frac{1}{2}d.$ per pound net weight, *i.e.*, not including weight of boxes. Each box contains exactly half-a-hundredweight. The box probably weighs 10 pounds or so.

Approximate railway rates on butter to the Buenos Aires Docks are as follows:—

By Passenger Train to Puerto Madero.			By Goods Train.
From	Distance.	Rate per 1,000 kilogs.	Rate per 1,000 kilogs.
	Kiloms.	Dollars.	Dollars.
Tandil	331	29·40	23 66
Gandara	100	11·20	9·92
Florencio Varela	31	5·60	5·81

NOTE.—11·45 dols. = 1*l.*

In the transit of butter for export a rebate of 20 per cent. on the above rates is granted.

MINERALS, METALS AND MACHINERY.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Enquiry under the Boiler Explosions Act.

A formal investigation was held on the 16th March into the circumstances attending the explosion of a boiler which occurred at Bedminster, Bristol, on the 16th December, 1904. The Commissioners found that the explosion was caused by the neglect of the owner, who was ordered to pay the sum of 50*l.* towards the cost of the investigation.

BRITISH WEST INDIES—LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Mineral Products.

The report for 1903-4 on the Leeward Islands states that there is, in Dominica, one sulphur mine at Soufrière, and there are mines containing molybdenum and copper in Virgin Gorda, one of the Virgin Islands group. Phosphates are found in the islands of Redonda and Barbuda.

The American Company that is exporting sulphur from the Soufrière has commenced operations under very favourable conditions, and the output of this product may be expected to assume considerable proportions. (*Colonial Office, Annual Reports,* 445.)

OTTOMAN EMPIRE.

Bitumen in Syria.

A recent report by the United States Consul at Beirut gives some interesting details regarding the bitumen deposits of Syria. These deposits, he states, were discovered some fifty years ago near Hasbeya, not far from the sources of the Jordan River. They are the property of the Sultan, and were formerly leased to a Beirut firm, who retained one-third of the mined product and paid all expenses, while the remaining two-thirds was sold by the "Liste civile" to the same firm. Provision was made for the suppression of any exploitation of the Dead Sea and Latakia bitumen, and thus a monopoly was created which raised or lowered the price per ton as the exigencies of the moment might dictate. Twenty years ago the price demanded, in the absence of any stock on hand, was about 47*l.* per ton. Abundant supplies were soon dug out, and in order to test the capacity of the world's markets, the price was gradually lowered to nearly 12*l.* per ton without, however, stimulating consumption commensurately. Ultimately the price went up to something like 30*l.* per ton, at which rate about 5,000 boxes of 100 kilogs. (220 pounds) each are sold annually in Hamburg, London, New York, Trieste and Genoa.

It is claimed that the Syrian bitumen is without a rival in the world, being exceptionally pure and rich in its native state. It is used, not for street paving, nor for covering ships' bottoms, nor for timber used in dams, &c., as are the Trinidad and South American asphaltes, but in the manufacture of black varnish for furniture,

Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.

leather, &c. Dead sea bitumen is said to be superior even to the Hasbeya product, and bitumen of prime quality is found also near Latakia, in northern Syria. The Hasbeya pits are at present lying idle, and have been practically abandoned for ten years, the product now sold being old stock.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Production of Open-hearth Steel in 1904.

The "Bulletin" of the American Iron and Steel Association publishes statistics of the production of open-hearth steel in the United States in 1904, from which it appears that the production was larger than in 1903 or in any preceding year.

The following table shows the production of open-hearth steel ingots and castings in the last two years, and the process by which made :—

Open-hearth Steel.	1903.			1904.		
	Basic Process.	Acid Process.	Total.	Basic Process.	Acid Process.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Ingots	4,600,034	829,529	5,429,563	5,007,448	597,884	5,605,332
Castings	134,879	265,469	400,348	98,919	203,415	302,334
Total ...	4,734,913	1,094,998	5,829,911	5,106,367	801,299	5,907,666

AGRICULTURE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Corn Prices.

The prices of British corn per quarter of 8 bushels, as received from the inspectors and officers of Excise in the week ended the 25th March, 1905, were as follow:—

Wheat	30*s.*	9*d.*
Barley	25*s.*	2*d.*
Oats	17*s.*	0*d.*

For further particulars see p. 618.

Imports of Agricultural Produce.

A statement is published on p. 619, showing the quantities of the various descriptions of agricultural produce imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 25th March, 1905, as well as of the imports during the corresponding week of 1904.

Agriculture.

BRITISH WEST INDIES—LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Cotton Industry.

In the report on the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1903-4, it is stated that a ginnery, with a steam engine, an oil engine, three gins, and a baling press, has been erected in Antigua. A ginnery has been erected in Nevis by private enterprise, assisted by the British Cotton-Growing Association. In St. Kitts the operation of the privately-owned ginnery has been continued. In Montserrat one privately-owned ginnery and two assisted by the British Cotton-Growing Association have been steadily worked.

The report adds that the cultivation of Sea Island cotton has been widely extended, a considerable acreage being placed under this crop in each island, except Dominica, which is not thought so suitable for the industry. The cultivation promises to be successful, though obviously those embarking in it will have to acquire skill by experience, and some years must elapse before the best results are realised. The industry is likely to be of great importance to Montserrat, Nevis, and Anguilla, where the sugar industry is carried on under difficulties. (*Colonial Office, Annual Reports*, 445).

FRANCE—TUNIS.

Development of Sericulture.

According to the "Feuille de Renseignements de la Régence de Tunis," the measures for the fostering of sericulture which were instituted in Tunis some years ago, were continued with fair success in 1904. Experiments carried out at Thala and Sbeïtlia, under somewhat unfavourable conditions as regards climate and appliances, gave satisfactory results and proved the possibility of rearing silkworms on the high plains. Lectures on sericulture, with practical demonstrations, given at Djerba under the auspices of the Government education authorities, were well attended. Successful experiments in sericulture were also made at Gabes and at Bardo, Manouba and Djedeïda and other places in the vicinity of Tunis. Attempts to acclimatise certain species of undomesticated silkworms are to be made by the military authorities during the present year.

MISCELLANEOUS.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Cotton Statistics.

The number of bales of cotton imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 23rd March, 1905, was 78,184 (including 7 bales British West Indian), and the number imported during the 12 weeks ended the 23rd March was 1,110,468 (including 635

Miscellaneous.

bales British West African and 553 bales British West Indian). As regards exports, the figures are, for the week ended the 23rd March, 1905, 9,613 bales, and for the 12 weeks, 134,835 (including 16 bales British West African).

For further details see p. 618.

CAPE COLONY.

Trade in 1904.

Referring to the particulars of the trade of Cape Colony in 1904 given on pp. 497-8 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 16th March, the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade have received from their correspondent at Port Elizabeth (Mr. J. S. Neave) the following statement showing the value of the imports (including Government articles) into Cape Colony last year, and whence imported, together with the value of the exports (including re-exports), from Cape Colony in the same period showing whither exported. The figures, both for imports and exports, are exclusive of specie:—

—	Imports.		Exports.	
	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	21,510,000	14,019,000	21,724,000	25,268,000
British Possessions... ...	2,424,000	2,725,000	209,000	187,000
Foreign Countries	9,828,000	5,080,000	569,000	1,114,000
Total... ...	33,762,000	21,824,000	22,502,000	26,569,000

TRINIDAD.

Suggested Establishment of a Cement Factory.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade have received from the Collector of Customs in Trinidad a copy of a joint report by the Government Analyst and the Government Geologist of that Colony (Messrs. P. Carmody, F.I.C., F.C.S., and E. H. Cunningham Craig, F.G.S.) on the possibility of establishing a Portland cement factory in Trinidad.

These gentlemen are of opinion that clay and limestone suitable for cement-making exist in the Colony in sufficiently large quantities. They suggest that a cement factory, capable of producing not less than 200 tons a week, and capable also of extension to meet further possible requirements, might advantageously be established at Pointe-à-Pierre.

Miscellaneous.

BRITISH WEST INDIES—LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Trade in 1903.

The following table showing the value of the trade of the Leeward Islands during each of the years 1901-3, is compiled from official figures published in the recently issued report on the Colony. (*Colonial Office, Annual Reports,* 445):—

Countries.	1901.		1902.		1903.	
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	160,827	60,374	165,958	78,292	168,700	67,178
British Colonies	51,441	48,071	56,941	129,611	51,716	152,075
United States of America..	137,496	183,696	143,521	92,617	150,240	74,467
Other foreign countries ...	8,466	15,203	8,107	17,315	7,044	17,749
Total ... £	358,230	307,344	374,527	317,835	377,700	311,469

FRANCE—SENEGAL.

Brest-Dakar Cable: Tariff.

With reference to the notices on p. 376 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 23rd February, and p. 470 of the "Journal" of 9th March, relating to the Brest-Dakar cable, the French "Journal Officiel" of 22nd March publishes a tariff of the charges which will be made for telegrams transmitted by this cable.

The "Journal" may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.).

AUSTRIA—HUNGARY.

Direct Importation of Virginia Tobacco into Trieste.

H.M. Consul at Trieste (Mr. H. L. Churchill) reports that the first cargo of Virginia tobacco that has ever reached that port arrived in September, 1904, by the Austrian steamer "Lacroma" from Newport News (United States), for the Austrian Tobacco Régie. Tobacco for the manufacture of Austrian Virginia cigars was formerly imported *viâ* Bremen and Hamburg. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series,* 3,328.)

SERVIA.

Trade in 1903.

The following tables, showing the value of the imports and exports of Servia during each of the years 1899-1903*, is extracted from the recent report of the British Vice-Consul at Belgrade (Hon. W. G. Thesiger, D.S.O.):—

* At the date of the report the statistics for the first nine months of 1904 had not been published as has hitherto been the case.

Miscellaneous.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total Trade.
	£	£	£
1899	1,857,144	2,629,775	4,486,919
1900	2,161,089	2,660,878	4,821,967
1901	1,753,417	2,627,426	4,380.843
1902	1,792,830	2,884,946	4,677,776
1903	2,329,410	2,398,696	4,728,106

(*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,329.)

SAN DOMINGO.

Amber Deposit.

The "Engineering and Mining Journal" (New York) states that an American company has recently exploited an amber deposit on the island of Santo Domingo, province of Santiago, Dominican Republic. The locality is at an altitude of 1,800 feet, near the top of a hill known as Palo Quemado (Burnt Post), at the head-waters of the Licey River, on a small branch of the Miguel Sanchez. It is situated about 30 miles inland from the coast, and lies some ten miles north-west of Tambonil and seven miles north of Santiago. The amber occurs in a friable, disintegrated, and much broken sandstone, which at times becomes a conglomerate and contains fragments of lignite. The amber itself is found loose in the soil and disintegrated rock, and also in the friable sandstone. It appears usually in ovate masses, from an inch or two to the size of a man's hand, round, sometimes flattened, dull on the exterior, and covered with a brown surface crust, like much of the Baltic amber and like buried resins generally. It possesses somewhat of the opalescent character of the beautiful amber from Roumania, and of that from Catania, Sicily. In colour it varies from yellow to rich brown.

CHILE.

Regulations respecting Insurance Companies.

With reference to the notice on p. 85 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 12th January as to a new Law respecting Insurance Companies in Chile, the "Diario Oficial" of Chile, of 16th February, contains the text of the regulations which have been promulgated for carrying out the provisions of that Law.

The "Diario" may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.).

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Cotton Returns.

Return of the Number of Bales of Cotton Imported and Exported at the Various Ports of the United Kingdom during the Week and 12 Weeks ended 23rd March, 1905.

—	Week ended 23rd Mar., 1905.	12 Weeks ended 23rd Mar., 1905.	Week ended 23rd Mar., 1905.	12 Weeks ended 23rd Mar., 1905.
	Imports. (Bales.)		Exports. (Bales.)	
	No.	No.	No.	No.
American	62,714	917,913	6,172	97,721
Brazilian	—	11,305	—	328
East Indian	379	14,316	260	4,629
Egyptian	14,844	147,757	3,179	31,491
Miscellaneous	247*	19,177†	2	666‡
Total	78,184	1,110,468	9,613	134,835

* Including 7 bales British West Indian.
† Including 635 bales British West African and 553 bales British West Indian.
‡ Including 16 bales British West African.

Corn Prices.

Statement showing the Average Price of British Corn, per quarter of 8 bushels, Imperial Measure,* as received from the Inspectors and Officers of Excise in the week ended 25th March, 1905, and corresponding weeks of the seven previous years pursuant to the Corn Returns Act, 1882.

—	Average Price.					
	Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Week ended 25th March, 1905	30	9	25	2	17	0
Corresponding week in—						
1898	35	3	27	11	17	10
1899	24	11	26	2	16	11
1900	25	10	24	11	17	2
1901	26	0	24	9	18	0
1902	27	2	27	2	20	7
1903	25	2	22	4	17	0
1904	28	2	22	8	16	7

* Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, provides that where returns of purchases of British Corn are made to the local inspector of Corn Returns in any other measure than the Imperial bushel or by weight or by a weighed measure that officer shall convert such returns into the Imperial bushel, and in the case of weight or weighed measure the conversion is to be made at the rate of sixty Imperial pounds for every bushel of wheat, fifty Imperial pounds for every bushel of barley, and thirty-nine Imperial pounds for every bushel of oats.

Imports of Agricultural Produce into the United Kingdom.

Account showing the Quantities of certain kinds of **Agricultural Produce** imported into the **United Kingdom** in the week ended 25th March, 1905, together with the quantities imported in the corresponding week of the previous year.

—		Week ended 25th Mar., 1905.	*Corresponding Week in 1904.*
Animals, living :—			
Oxen, bulls, cows, and calves	Number.	12,408	*12,291*
Sheep and lambs	"	5,510	*10,894*
Swine	"	—	—
Horses	"	205	*434*
Fresh Meat :—			
Beef	Cwts.	85,733	*93,917*
Mutton	"	101,218	*73,707*
Pork	"	10,618	*13,654*
Salted or preserved meat :—			
Bacon	Cwts.	108,877	*125,012*
Beef	"	1,360	*2,074*
Hams	"	26,095	*21,050*
Pork	"	3,312	*4,626*
Meat, unenumerated, salted or fresh ...	"	17,539	*16,069*
Meat, preserved otherwise than by salting...	"	17,313	*19,980*
Dairy produce and substitutes :—			
Butter	Cwts.	105,276	*80,011*
Margarine	"	24,852	*18,524*
Cheese	"	24,734	*25,011*
Milk, fresh, in cans or drums	"	—	*30*
" cream	"	91	*83*
" condensed	"	20,293	*21,339*
" preserved, other kinds...	"	406	*330*
Eggs	Grt. Hundr.	318,356	*317,559*
Poultry	Value £	33,166	*26,022*
Game	"	3,016	*3,787*
Rabbits, dead (not tinned)	Cwts.	5,717	*1,651*
Lard	"	38,595	*35,369*
Corn, grain, meal, and flour :—			
Wheat	Cwts.	2 514,100	*1,486.400*
Wheat meal and flour	"	242,400	*442,700*
Barley	"	510,300	*612,100*
Oats	"	334,800	*175,600*
Peas	"	46,170	*21,140*
Beans	"	16,950	*17,800*
Maize or Indian corn	"	584,200	*1,118,400*
Fruit, raw :—			
Apples	Cwts.	112,770	*80,901*
Apricots and peaches	"	21	—
Bananas	Bunches.	51,589	*32,025*
Cherries	Cwts.	—	—
Currants...	"	—	—
Gooseberries	"	—	—
Grapes	"	508	*127*
Lemons	"	6,018	*11,862*
Oranges	"	194,096	*192,328*
Pears	"	176	*221*
Plums	"	127	—
Strawberries	"	—	—
Unenumerated	"	51	*1,031*
Hay...	Tons.	953	*2,454*
Straw	"	1,235	*2,554*
Moss Litter*	"	2,600	—
Hops	Cwts.	690	*1,448*
Locust Beans	"	12,338	*28,336*
Vegetables, raw :—			
Onions	Bushels.	62,499	*199.628*
Potatoes	Cwts.	23,720	*304,152*
Tomatoes	"	24.908	*14,760*
Unenumerated	Value £	13,695	*14,422*
Vegetables, dried	Cwts.	640	*404*
Preserved by canning...	"	10 374	*4,274*

* Not shown in 1904.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

TRADE RETURNS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Monthly Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for the month of February, 1905, have been published. The accounts, which are issued on the 7th or 8th of each month, may be purchased at a cost, in the present instance of 1*s.* 1*d.* per copy, either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Fetter Lane, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; or Messrs. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh; or Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

Attention is further called to the fact that the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions" for the year 1903, in two volumes, may be purchased at a cost of 7*s.* 1*d.* for the first, and 5*s.* for the second volume, at any of the addresses enumerated above. This publication, which contains much more detailed and exhaustive information than can be given in the Monthly Accounts, gives Abstract Tables for the years 1899–1903, and detailed statements of imports and exports of each article (from and to each country) in the first volume, and in the second volume details as to customs duties, trade in coin and bullion, transhipments, and articles in bond, and particulars of the trade of the United Kingdom with each foreign country.

THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

The "Board of Trade Labour Gazette" is published by the Board of Trade on the 16th of each month. The following are among the more important articles which appear in the March issue:—State of the Labour Market in February; Fatal Industrial Accidents in 1904; Spindles and Looms in Woollen and Worsted Factories; Relief of the Unemployed.

FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

The following is a *résumé* of some of the more interesting subjects dealt with in Consular Reports of the **Annual Series** issued since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal."

ANNUAL.

No. 3,329. Trade of Servia for 1903.

Statistics of imports and exports for 1899-1903.

Great diminution of exports in 1903, owing principally to the bad harvest.

Detailed examination of principal imports.

Table showing the value and variation of British trade in 1902-03.

Probable large demand for railway plant in the near future.

Government Publications.

No. 3,330. Trade of Consular District of Brest for 1904.

Statistics of imports, exports and shipping at Brest, Morlaix, Le Légué and Lorient.

Approaching completion of the breakwater at Brest.

Improvements carried out in various lights, lighthouses and beacons.

Details of light railways in course of construction.

OTHER GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

New German Tariff as modified by Treaties. Statement. [*Cd.* 2,414.] *Price* 1*s.* 10*d.*

This Return contains a translation of the new "General" Customs tariff of Germany, and shows in parallel columns the changes effected therein by the commercial arrangements recently entered into by Germany with Russia, Switzerland, Italy, Roumania, Belgium, Austria-Hungary, and Servia; a statement is is also given of the resultant conventional tariff, *i.e.*, the rates, arising from the "general" tariff and the concessions to the Powers named, which will be applied to imports from all countries entitled to most-favoured-nation treatment in Germany on 1st March next, when the new tariff and treaties come into operation. A statement of the rates tenable under the existing German tariff has been inserted, and the Return thus exhibits clearly a comparison of the present customs duties levied on British goods in Germany with those leviable on and after 1st March, 1906.

INFORMATION ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

Information on the subjects named in the notice on the cover will be found in the following Board of Trade publications, obtainable in London upon application to Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W., and their Sub-Agents, Messrs. G. Street & Co., Ltd., 30, Cornhill, E.C.; in Edinburgh to Messrs. Oliver & Boyd; and in Dublin to Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, at the prices named, viz.:—

1 "Board of Trade Journal," 3rd September, 1903, pp. 448–61, 5th May, 1904, p. 216, 4th August, 1904, p. 212, 10th November, 1904, pp. 265-6, and 9th February, 1905, p. 259, at 1*d.* per number.
Differential Duties Return (Cd. 2,394) at 1*s.* 6*d.*

2	Statistical Abstract for the United Kingdom, 51st number (Cd. 2,192) at 1*s.* 3*d.*	pp. 28/29
3		p. 12
4		pp. 176/191
5		pp. 57/157

Government Publications.

5 Monthly Accounts relating to Trade and Navigation (0.10) at 8½*d.*
Annual Statement of Trade, 1903.
Vol. I. (Cd. 2,043) at 7*s.* 1*d.* ... pp. 166 *et seq.*
Annual Statement of Trade, 1903.
Vol. II. (Cd. 2,081) at 5*s.* ... pp. 177/453

6 Annual Abstract of Labour Statistics, 9th No. (Cd. 1,755) at 1*s.* ... pp. 176/182
7 pp. 34/72

7 Report on Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour (Cd. 2,199), at 7*d.*

8 Colonial Import Duties Return (Cd. 2,185) 2*s.* 1*d.*

9 Canada (Preferential Tariff for goods from the United Kingdom), No. 310, at ½*d.*

10 Statistical Abstract for the Colonial and other Possessions of the United Kingdom, 41st No. (Cd. 1,912) at 1*s.* 10*d.* ... ... pp. 38/243
Statistical Abstract for the British Empire, 1st No. (Cd. 2.395) at 6*d.* ... ... pp. 3/45
Trade (Colonies and the United Kingdom) ...No. 262, 2*d.*
Trade (Colonies and Foreign Countries) ... ...No. 110, 2*d.*

11 Foreign Import Duties Return (Cd. 2,340) at 2*s.*
New German Tariff as modified by Treaties (Cd. 2,414) at 1*s.* 10*d.*

12 Statistical Abstract for the principal and other foreign countries, 30th number (Cd. 2,202) at 1*s.* 6*d.* ... ... pp. 44/217

13 Trade between the United Kingdom and Germany (131) at 1½*d.*

14 Memorandum on the comparative Statistics of Population, Industry, and Commerce in the United Kingdom and some leading foreign countries (Cd. 1,199) at 5½*d.*

15 British and Foreign Trade and Industry. Memoranda, Statistical Tables and Charts (Cd. 1,761) at 3*s.* 6*d.*
British and Foreign Trade and Industry (Second Series). Second Series of Memoranda, Statistical Tables and Charts (Cd. 2,337) at 3*s.* 6*d.*

16 Naval Expenditure and Mercantile Marine (Great Britain, &c.) (284) at 1*d.*

Government Publications.

LIST OF FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

THE following Reports of H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Officers, which have been issued in the **Annual** and **Miscellaneous** Series since 1st January, 1905, may be obtained from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Fetter Lane, E.C.

The titles of the Miscellaneous Series are printed in italics.

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	Austria-Hungary:	
3328	Trieste, 1904	1½*d.*
	Belgium:	
3327	Antwerp—Shipping ...1904	7½*d.*
3325	Belgium—Finances 1904–05	1*d.*
	Denmark:	
3324	Denmark (Supplementary) 1903	½*d.*
	France:	
3330	Brest 1904	1½*d.*
	German Empire and Colonies:	
624	*Memorandum on German Cement*	½*d.*
630	*Technical Instruction in Germany: Supplementary and Miscellaneous* ...	*4d.*
	Italy:	
3320	Italy 1903	1½*d.*
3323	South Italy 1904	1½*d.*
	Russia:	
628	*Cultivation of Tea in the Caucasus*	½*d.*
	Servia:	
3329	Servia 1903	1½*d.*
	AFRICA—	
3321	Somaliland Protectorate... ... 1903–04	3*d.*
3322	Tangier and District ...	1½*d.*
	AMERICA, NORTH—	
	United States of America:	
3326	Baltimore 1904	1½*d.*
625	*Rice Industry in the United States*	*2d.*
626	*Iron and Steel Exhibits at the St. Louis Exhibition* ...	2½*d.*
627	*United States Railways* ...	2½*d.*
631	*Coal Industry of the United States, 1903*	2½*d*
	ASIA—	
	China:	
629	*Cotton Mills of China* ...	*2d.*

Treaty Series.

The following numbers of the Treaty Series issued since the 1st January, 1905, may also be obtained from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Fetter Lane, E.C.:—

No.	———	Price.
	EUROPE— **France:**	
3	Agreements between the United Kingdom and France referring to Arbitration the question of the Grant of the French flag to Muscat Dhows...	½*d.*
5	Convention between the United Kingdom and France respecting Newfoundland and West and Central Africa ...	1*d.*
6	Declaration between the United Kingdom and France respecting Egypt and Morocco	1½*d.*
7	Declaration between the United Kingdom and France concerning Siam, Madagascar, and the New Hebrides ...	½*d.*

Government Publications.

No.	———	Price.
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8	Agreement between the United Kingdom and Norway respecting telegraphic communication between the two countries...	½*d.*
	Russia:	
2	Agreement between the United Kingdom and Russia respecting Joint Stock Companies and other commercial, industrial, and financial associations	½*d.*
	AMERICA, NORTH— Mexico:	
4	Convention between the United Kingdom and Mexico respecting Postal Rates upon letters passing between New Zealand and Mexico	½*d.*
	WEST INDIES— Cuba:	
1	Accession of Cuba to arrangements respecting false indications of origin on goods and the International Registration of Trade Marks	½*d.*

COLONIAL OFFICE REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to H.M. Colonial Possessions issued since 1st January, 1905, may be purchased from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Fetter Lane, E.C.:—

Annual.

No.	Place.	Price.
—	Cyprus	2½*d.*
444	Basutoland...	3*d.*
445	Leeward Islands	2½*d.*

Miscellaneous.

No.	Place.	Price.
29	Ceylon. Reports on the results of the Mineral Survey in 1903–4	2½*d.*

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH OF THE BOARD OF TRADE.

The Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade (No. 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.) is intended to be a centre at which information on all subjects of commercial interest shall be collected and focussed in a form convenient for reference, and at which, so far as the interests of British trade permit, replies shall be given to enquiries by traders on commercial matters.

On application being made to it either personally or by letter, the Branch supplies, so far as is possible, information with regard to the following subjects, viz.: Commercial Statistics; Matters relating to Foreign and Colonial Tariffs and Customs Regulations; Lists of firms abroad engaged in particular lines of business in different localities; Foreign and Colonial Contracts open to Tender; Sources of Supply, Prices, &c., of Trade Products; Forms of Certificates of Origin; Regulations concerning Commercial Travellers, &c., &c. There is a Sample Room at the offices of the Branch, where, in addition to samples illustrative of reports of H.M. Consuls or of the Correspondents or Special Commissioners of the Board of Trade, specimens of special interest that may be received from the Imperial Institute, India, or the Colonies, &c., are exhibited from time to time.

The "Board of Trade Journal" is the principal medium through which intelligence collected by the Commercial Intelligence Branch, and intended for general information, is conveyed to the public. The "Journal" is now issued weekly at the price of 1*d*. All applications respecting subscription, or the purchase of single copies, should be addressed in London to Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; in Edinburgh to Messrs. Oliver & Boyd; and in Dublin to Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street. Copies may also be obtained from Messrs. G. Street & Co., Ltd., 30, Cornhill, E.C.

In consequence of the transfer of the Imperial Institute to the Board of Trade from the beginning of 1903, the work formerly carried on by the Commercial Intelligence Office of the Imperial Institute is now conducted by the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.

Among the branches of work now carried on by the Imperial Institute at South Kensington are the scientific investigation of the economic products of the British Empire with a view to their commercial utilisation, and the superintendence of the arrangement and classification of the Collection of these products which are exhibited at the Institute. From time to time samples and specimens of raw and manufactured products will be shown in the sample room at 73, Basinghall Street.

The "Imperial Institute Bulletin," issued quarterly, contains information and reports bearing on the work carried out in the Imperial Institute at South Kensington.

SPECIAL INDIAN AND COLONIAL TRADE ENQUIRY OFFICES.

India.—The India Trade Enquiry Office at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., has been established for the purpose of supplying the general public with all available information as to the commercial products, manufactures and trades of British India.

The office is under the superintendence of an India Office official, who is in daily attendance to answer personal or written enquiries.

The current publications of the Government of India dealing with Indian Trade statistics, tariff charges, railways, economic products, &c., are kept in the office, and can be consulted free: the various Indian Directories are also filed.

Canada.—The Canadian Government have secured premises at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., where an office has been opened under the designation of "Canadian Government Trade Enquiry Branch," for the convenience of the commercial community.

In due course it is intended to equip and maintain a display room, illustrating the products, resources and manufactures of the Dominion. In the meantime, a Canadian representative attends daily to deal with enquiries and applications in connection with Canadian import and export trade, and to supply information about Canadian matters generally. Personal appointments can be arranged when desired.

Cape of Good Hope.—The Government of the Cape of Good Hope have opened offices at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., for the purpose of a Commercial Agency for that Colony, which will be under the direction of the Agent-General for the Cape of Good Hope.

Mr. Lewis Atkinson, who has been appointed Commercial Agent, attends daily to deal with enquiries on all Commercial and Trade matters connected with Cape Colony.

Queensland.—For the convenience of the commercial community in the City of London, the Agent-General for Queensland has opened a branch office at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., where a representative attends daily to give information to enquirers regarding trade, mining, and all other matters in connection with Queensland.

A Reading Room will also be provided in which maps, directories, statutes, Government reports, and other publications of the State can be seen.

NEW OFFICES OF COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH OF BOARD OF TRADE, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

See notice on page 625 within.

HOW TO FIND INFORMATION AS TO

1 & 2. Customs Tariffs	In the United Kingdom.
3. Customs Receipts	
4. Average Prices	
5. Imports and Exports	
6. Growth and Movement of Population ...	
7. Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour ...	
8. Customs Tariffs	In the Colonies and India.
9. Preferential Tariff (Canada)	
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12. Imports and Exports	

13. Trade between the United Kingdom and Germany.
14. Trade and Population of the United Kingdom, United States, Germany and France, Compared.
15. State of British and Foreign Trade and Industry.
16. Naval Expenditure and Mercantile Marine, &c., of Great Britain and self-governing Colonies, and certain Foreign Countries.

SEE PAGES 621-2 WITHIN.

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THE Board of Trade Journal

(With which is incorporated the "Imperial Institute Journal.")

Edited by the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade.

MARCH 30, 1905.

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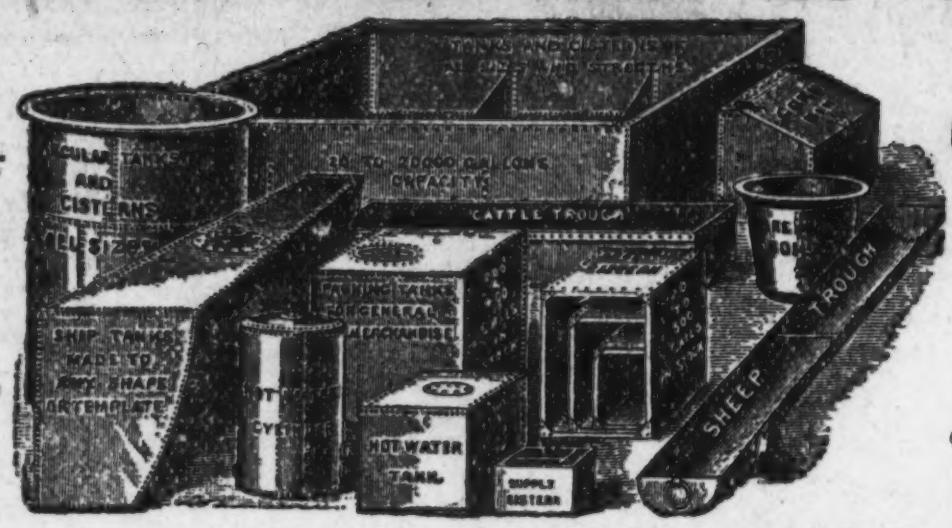

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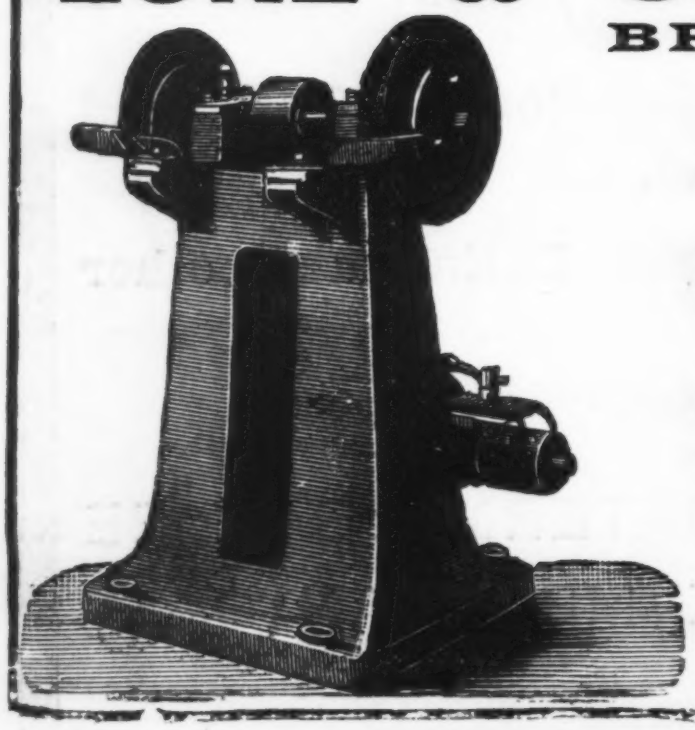

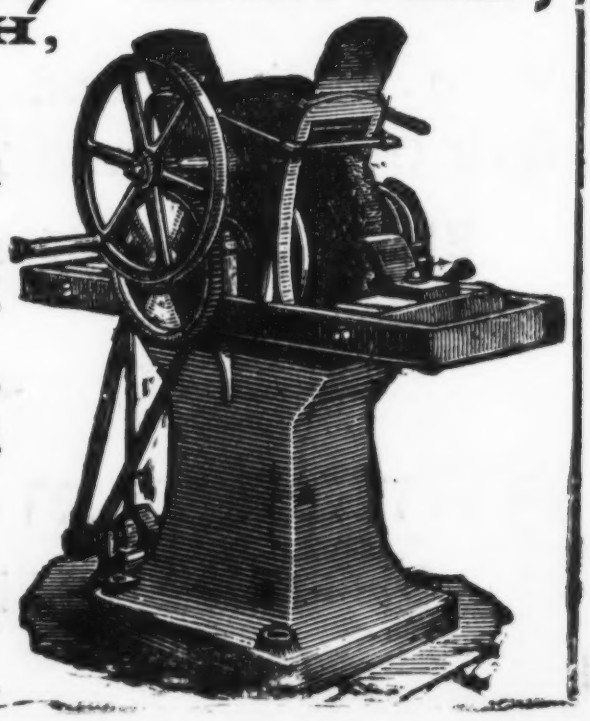

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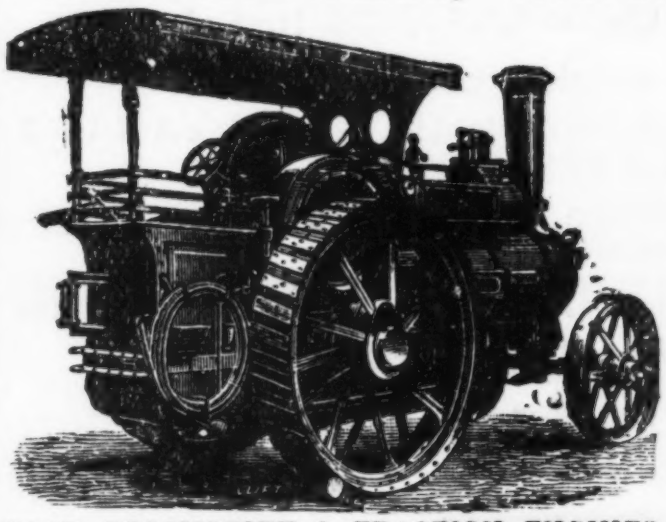

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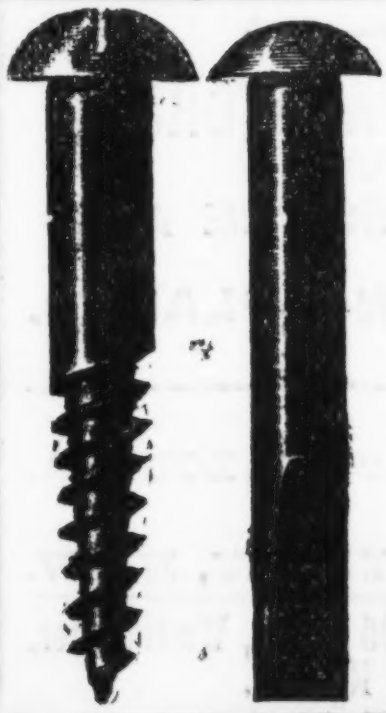

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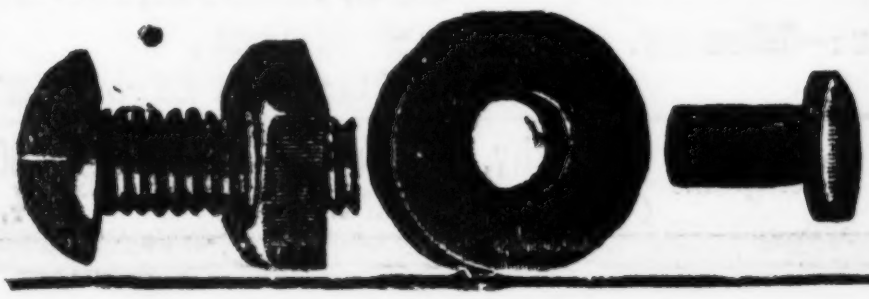

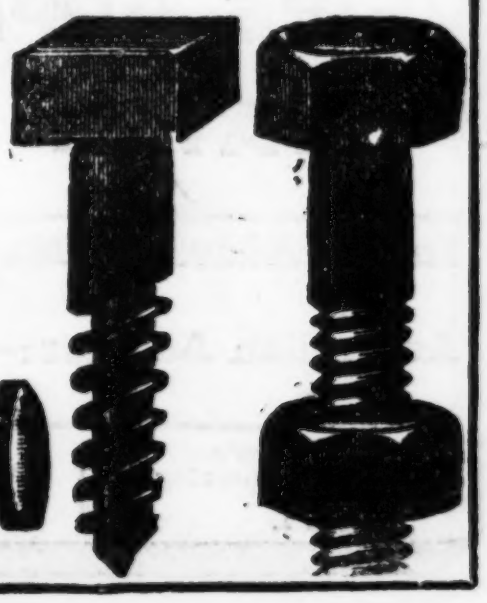

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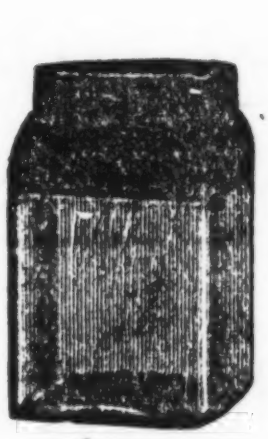

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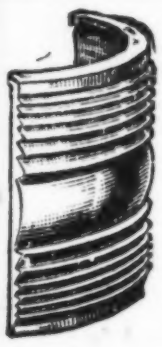
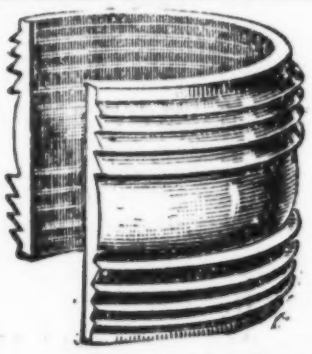
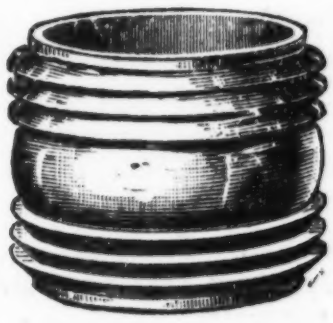

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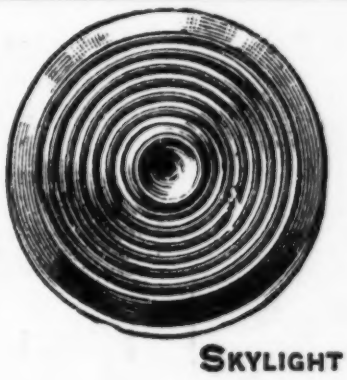

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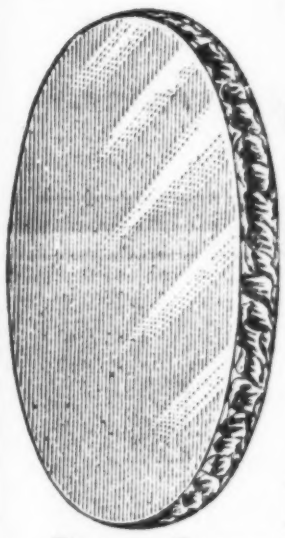

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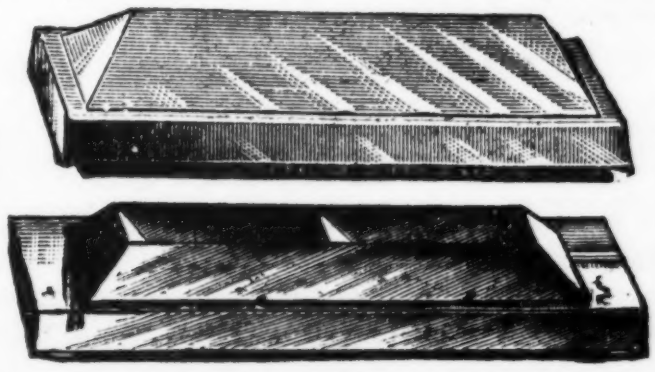

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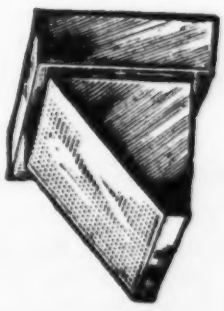

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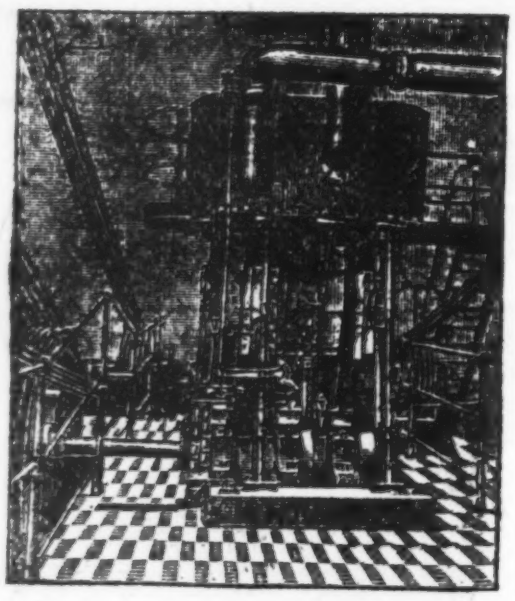

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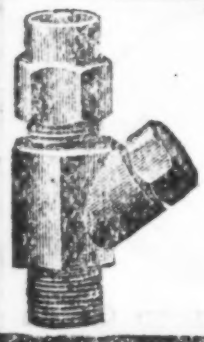

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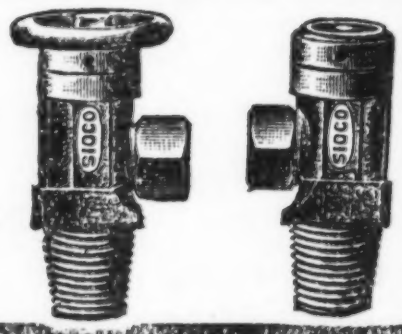

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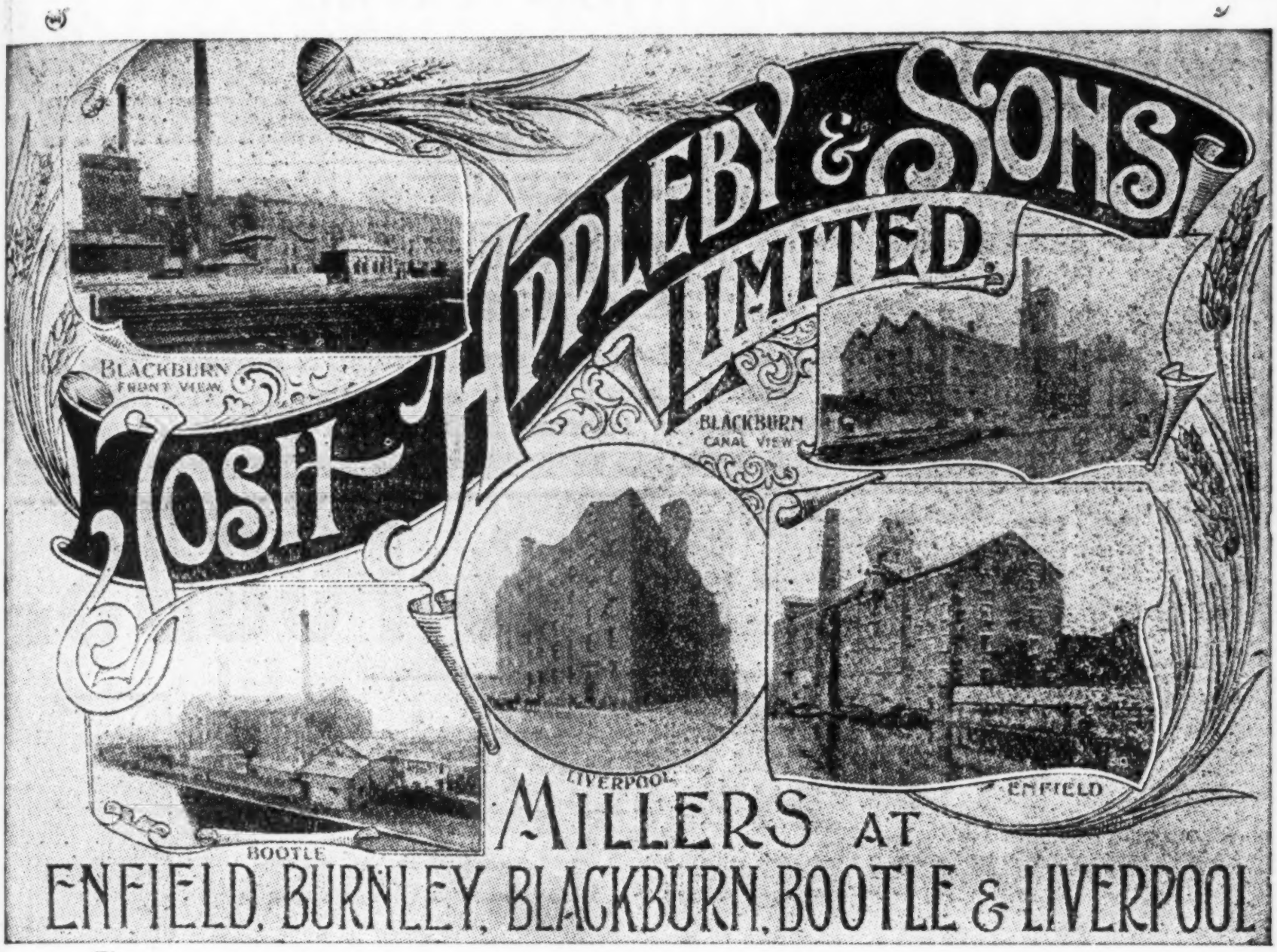

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Instructions for tender and forms of tender and contract, with specifications, can be obtained from the Acting Clerk of the Committee, 6, Waterloo Place, S.W., on and after Monday, March 27th, 1905, upon payment of £5, for which payment a receipt will be given, and the plans then may be inspected at the office of the Asylums Engineer, at 6, Waterloo Place between the hours of 10 and 4, except Saturday, and on that day between the hours of 10 and 1 p.m. Tenderers can also obtain permission from the Engineer to view the sites.

The amount deposited will, after the Committee have come to a decision upon the tenders received, but not before, be returned to the tenderer, provided he shall have sent in bona-fide tenders for both works, and shall not have withdrawn same.

Tenders must be on the printed forms and be accompanied by the forms of contract and schedules thereto and forms of bond. They must be enclosed in the authorised cover, sealed and endorsed, "Tender for Erection of Farm Buildings, Horton," and be delivered at the office of the Committee not later than 12 o'clock noon on Saturday, the 15th of April, 1905, after which time no tender will be received.

Any tenders not made on the printed form or not filled up and completed in every particular in accordance with the instructions will be rejected.

The Committee do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tenders.

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H. F. KEENE,
Acting Clerk of the Committee.
London Asylums Committee Office,
6, Waterloo Place, S.W.
March 23rd, 1905.

Borough of Morley.

Tenders are invited for the supply of the following materials for the year ending March 31, 1906, viz.:—

Granite and dross, Yorkshire setts, flags and kerbs, sewer and drain pipes, pitch, creosote oil, sand, Portland cement, lime, manhole and ventilating covers, gully grates and frames, and weed brooms.

Forms of tender and further particulars may be obtained on application to the undersigned.

Tenders, sealed and endorsed "Tender for ——," to be delivered at the Borough Engineer's Office; Town Hall. Morley, not later than Wednesday, 5th day of April.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

W. E. PUTMAN, A.M.I.C.E.,
Borough Engineer & Surveyor,
Town Hall, Morley,
March 21st, 1905.

APPOINTMENTS.

Borough of Bexhill.

Applications invited for position of Assistant Surveyor and Building Inspector. Salary commencing at £80 per annum. Previous experience in Borough Engineer's office necessary, with knowledge of surveying, building construction, preparation of plans and apportionments under the Private Street Works Act, 1892. Applications, together with copies of three testimonials, to be forwarded to me on or before the 8th of April, endorsed "Assistant Surveyor."

Canvassing a disqualification.

T. E. RODGERS,
Town Clerk.
March 22nd, 1905.

Urban District Council of Featherstone.

Assistant Surveyor.

The Council require the services of an Assistant Surveyor for a period of twelve months.

Applicants must have had previous experience in similar duties, and be between the ages of 25 and 35 years. Salary, £75 per annum.

Applications, stating age, experience and qualifications, together with copies only of two recent testimonials (which will not be returned), to be received by me on or before the 31st of March.

CHARLES LOWDEN,
Clerk to the said Council.
Ropergate, Pontefract,
March 14th, 1905.

Alton Urban District Council.

Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances.

The Alton Urban District Council are desirous of receiving applications for the appointment of Surveyor for the Urban District of Alton, at a salary of £90 per annum.

The Surveyor will, subject to the approval of the Local Government Board, be appointed Inspector of Nuisances, at a salary of £90 per annum, and must possess the certificate of the Sanitary Institute.

He will be required to devote his whole time to the duties of his office, and generally to perform the duties of Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances under the Public Health Acts.

Applications, on a form to be obtained from the Clerk, must be sent in to me on or before the 19th day of April next.

Canvassing the members of the Council will disqualify.

WILLIAM FRIMMER,
Clerk of the Council.
Alton, Hants,
March 23rd, 1905.

Hungerford Rural District Council.

Surveyor Wanted.

The above Council invite applications for the appointment of a Surveyor of Highways for their district, comprising about 129 miles of District Roads within an area of about 43,325 acres.

Applicants must be between twenty-five and forty years of age.

The appointment will be for one year, commencing on the 1st of May next, at a salary of £80, inclusive of all expenses, except stationery and postages.

The person appointed will be required to reside in the district at Hungerford, or some place near thereto, to be approved by the Council, and to devote the whole of his time to the duties of his office.

A bond for £200 of an approved Guarantee Society will be required for the faithful discharge of the duties.

Canvassing is prohibited.

Applications, in candidate's handwriting, stating age, present and previous occupations and experience, with copies of not more than three testimonials of recent date, to be sent to me not later than Saturday, April 1st.

Notice will be sent to any candidate required to attend before the Council.

H. DÓ W. ASTLEY,
Hungerford, Clerk.
March 22nd, 1905.

CONTRACTS.

East Sussex County Council.

To Builders.

Tenders are invited for the erection of the proposed new offices in Fisher Street, Lewes, for the Education Department.

Plans, specifications and condition of contract can be seen at the County Surveyor's Office, County Hall, Lewes, after Friday 31st of March next, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Bills of quantities may be obtained after Friday, 31st of March, on application to Mr. F. J. Wood, County Surveyor, Lewes, on payment of a deposit of 3 guineas, which deposit will be returned upon the receipt of a bona fide tender.

The contractor whose tender is accepted will be required to enter into a contract with the County Council, and, if required, enter into a bond, with two approved sureties, for the due carrying out of the contract.

Tenders, endorsed "Tenders for New Education Offices," to be addressed and delivered to F. Merrifield, Esq., County Hall, Lewes, not later than 10 a.m. on Monday, 17th of April, 1905.

The County Council does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender, and will not pay any expenses in connection with the preparation thereof.

FRED. J. WOOD, M.S.A.,
County Surveyor.
County Hall, Lewes,
March 6th, 1905.

County Council of Middlesex.

To Contractors.

The Highways Committee of the above Council invite tenders for carrying out certain works of tar paving, granite, kerbing and channelling on the main road, Burnt Oak, Edgware.

The approximate length of the kerbing, channelling and footpath is about 2,000 feet.

Plans may be seen, and specification, forms of tender and particulars may be obtained at my offices, on and after the 27th inst.

Tenders, endorsed "Paving Works, Edgware Road," must be made out on the form supplied, and delivered not later than 12 noon on the 4th of April, 1905, to Sir Richard Nicholson, Middlesex Guildhall, Westminster, S.W.

The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

HY. T. WAKELAM, M.I.C.E.,
County Engineer.
Middlesex Guildhall,
Westminster, S.W.
March 21st, 1905.

Harrogate Main Drainage.

North Disposal Works.

Tenders for Filtering Material.

The Corporation are prepared to receive tenders from Slag Merchants, &c., for the supply and delivery of about 6,500 tons of Honeycombed Slag, and about 6,000 tons of Clinkers, broken to the various sizes required; the delivery to extend over twelve months.

Specification and forms of tender can be obtained at the offices of the undersigned up to April 5th, 1905.

Sealed tenders, marked "Filtering Material," together with samples, must be delivered, free of expense, at the Engineer's office, not later than April 8th, 1905.

The Corporation do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender, and they reserve to themselves the right to accept such part of any tender as they may deem proper.

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Engineer.
1A, Cambridge Crescent, Harrogate.

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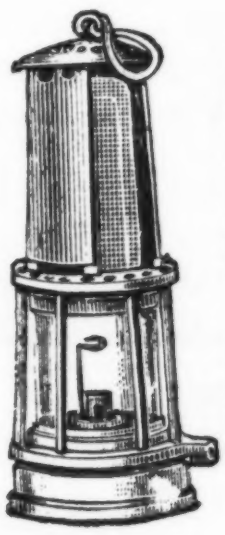

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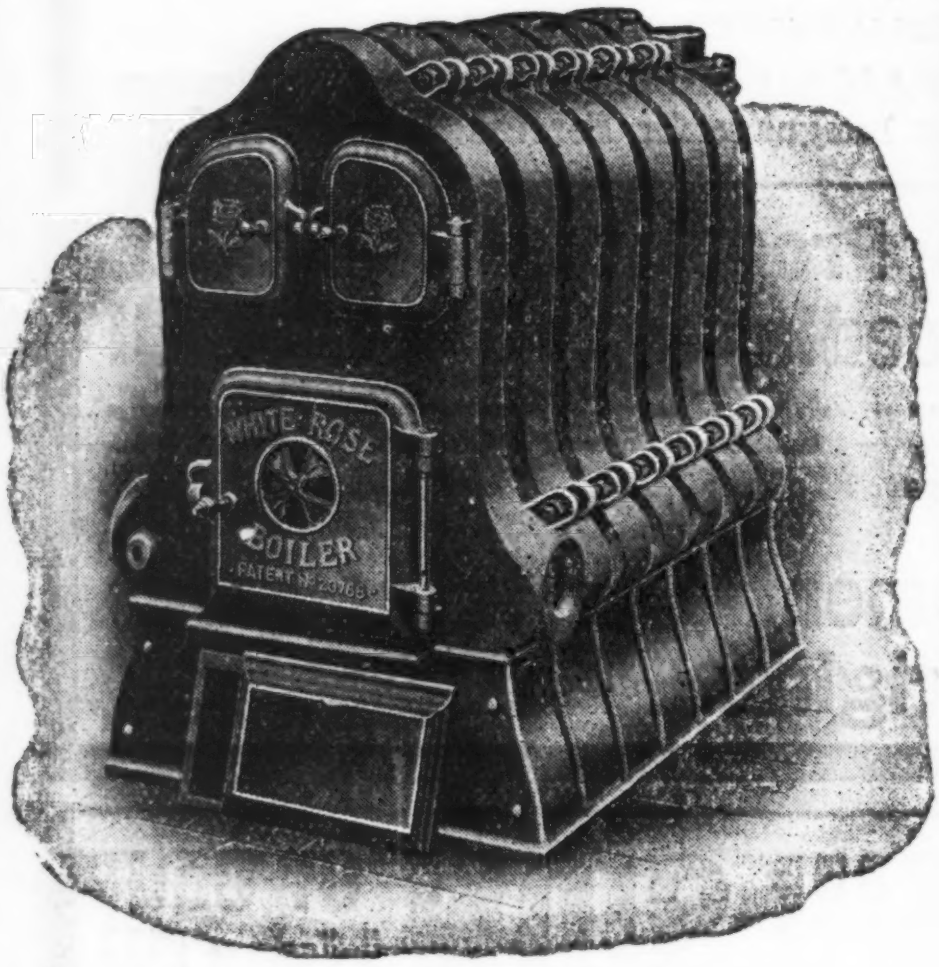

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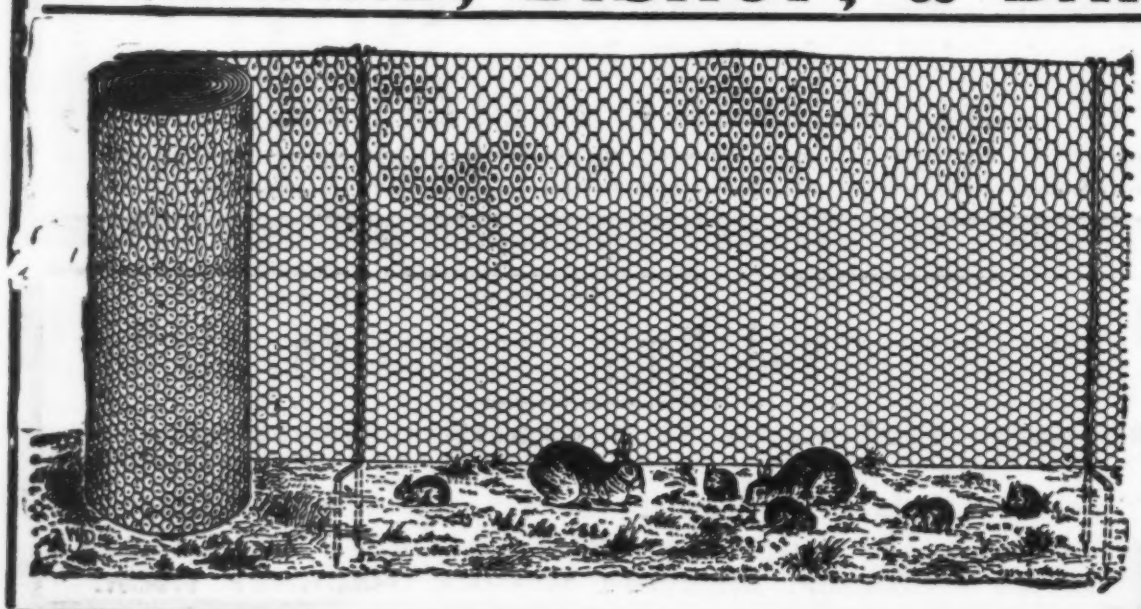

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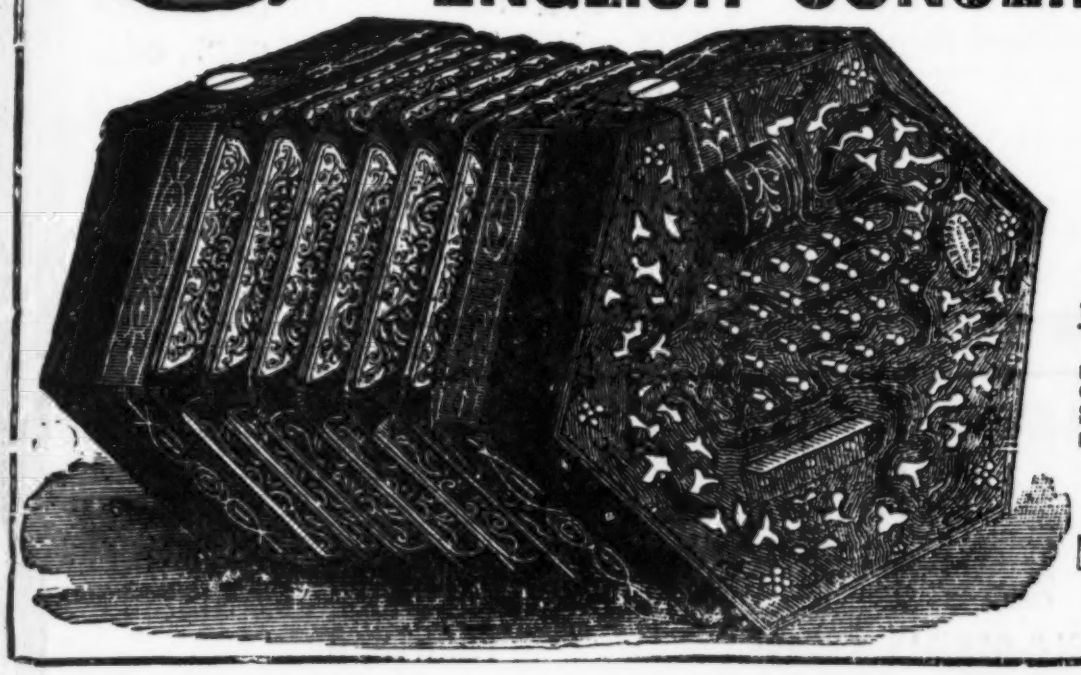

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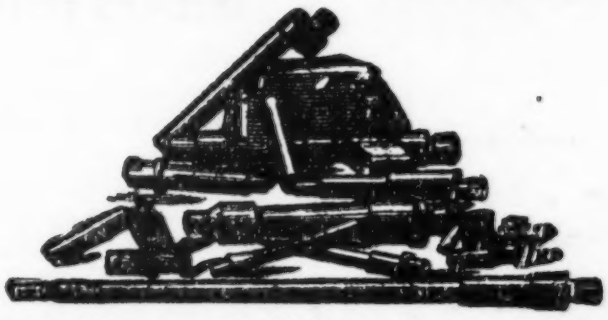

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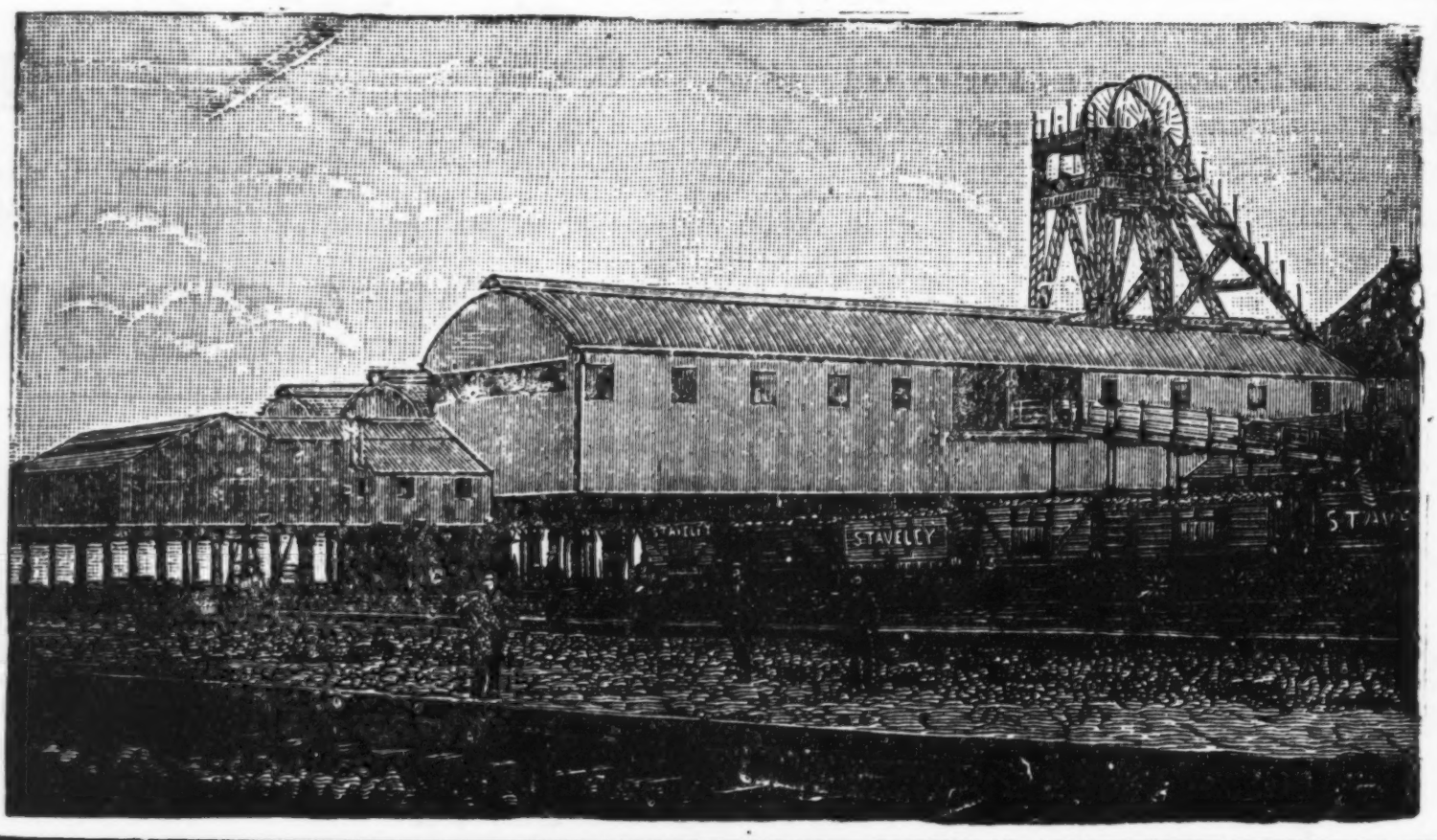

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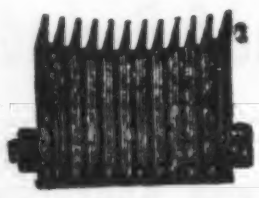

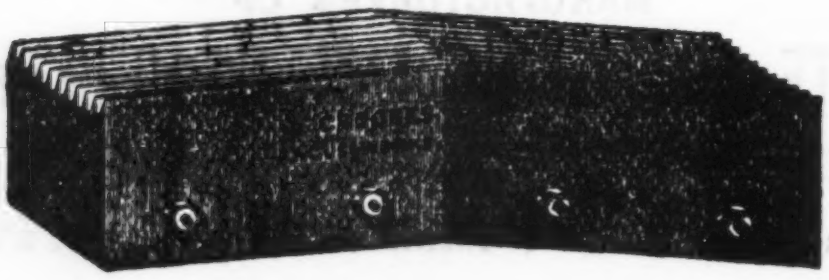

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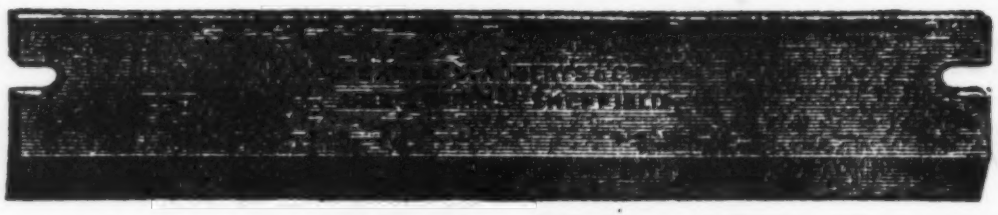

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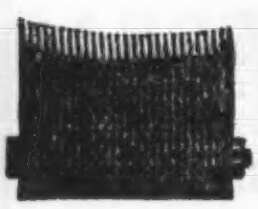

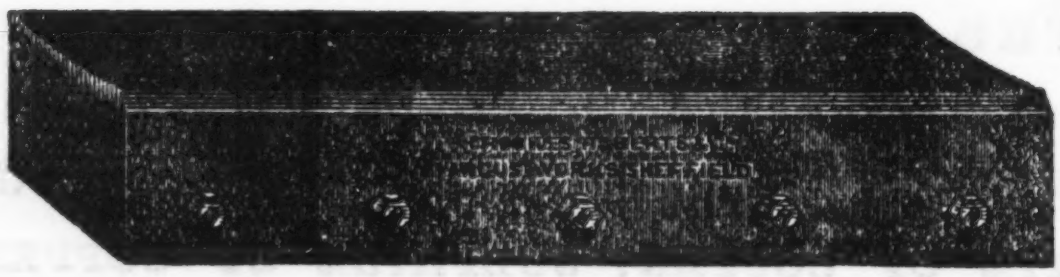

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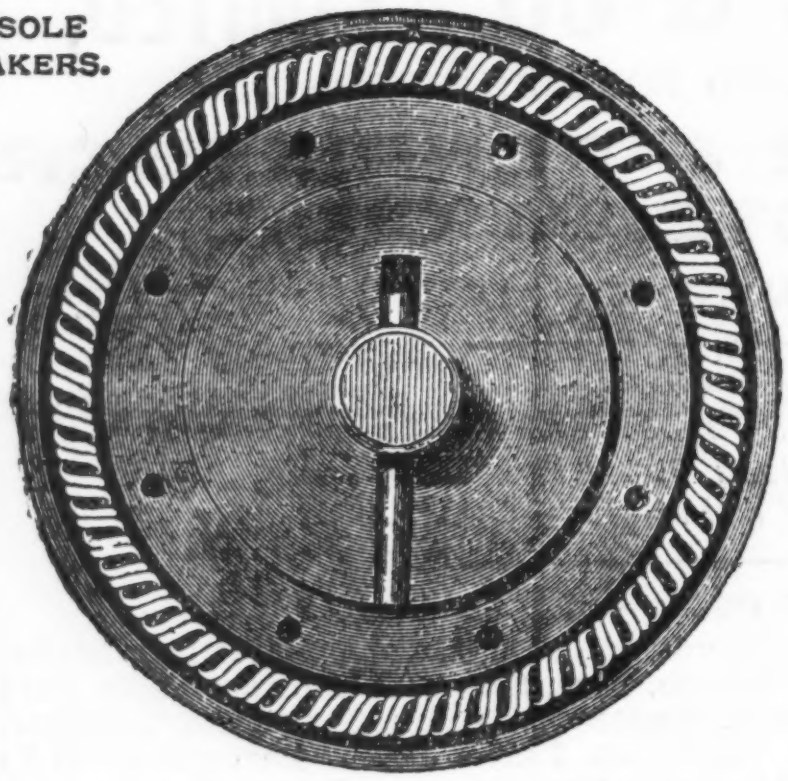

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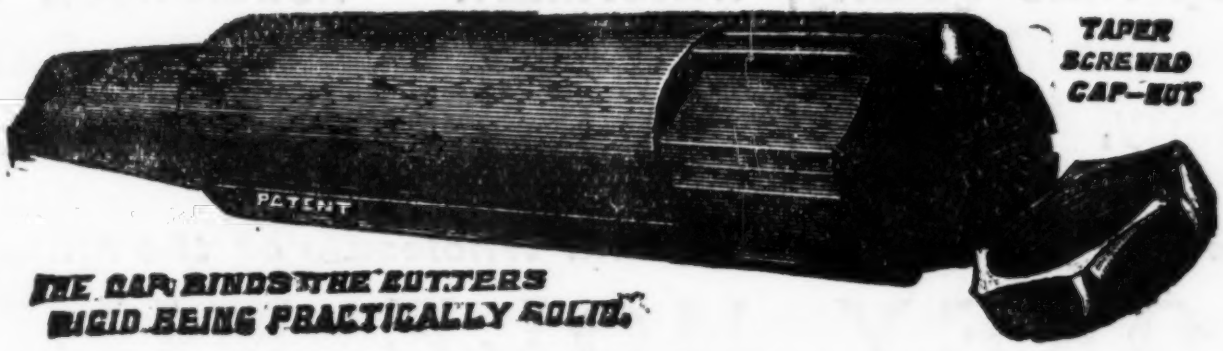

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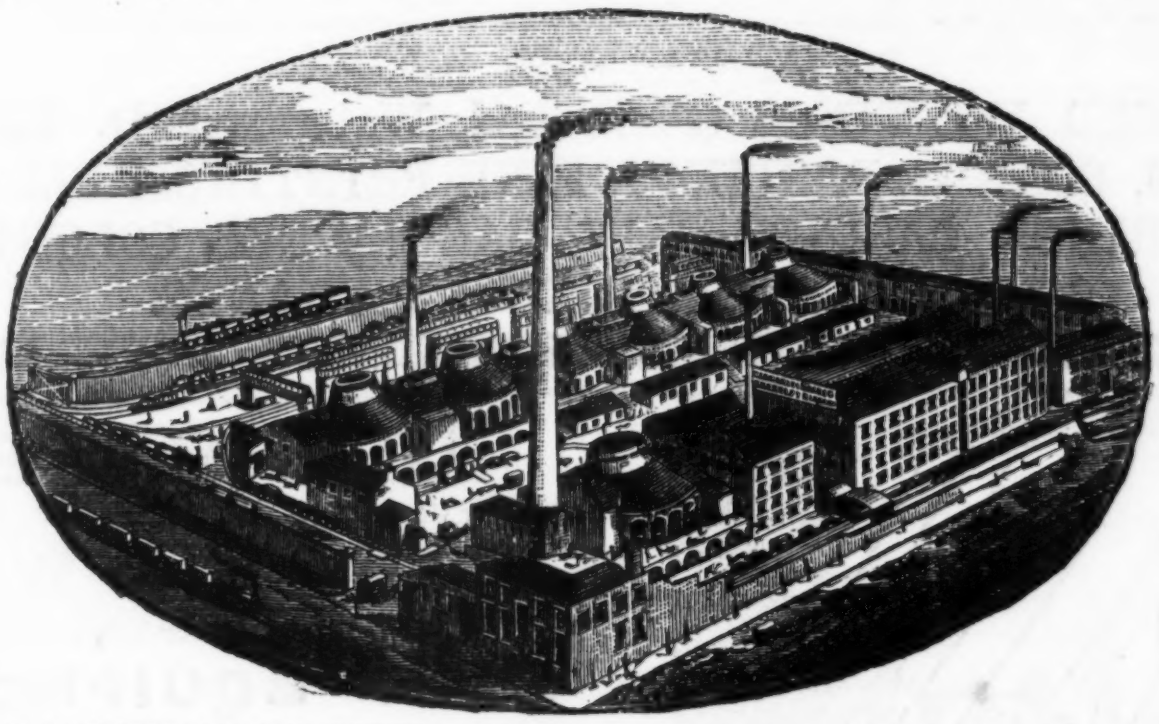

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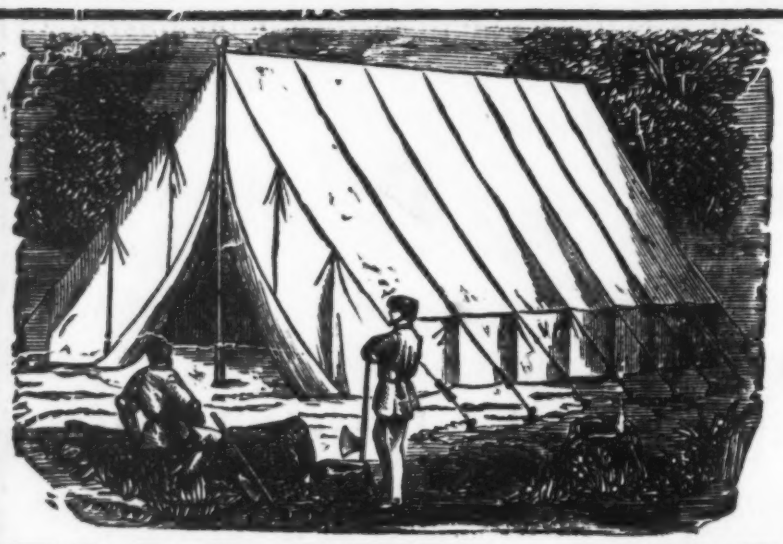

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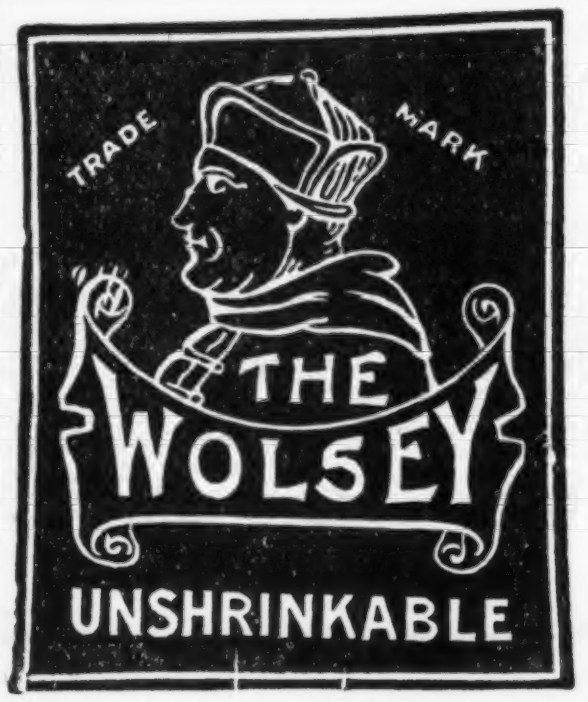

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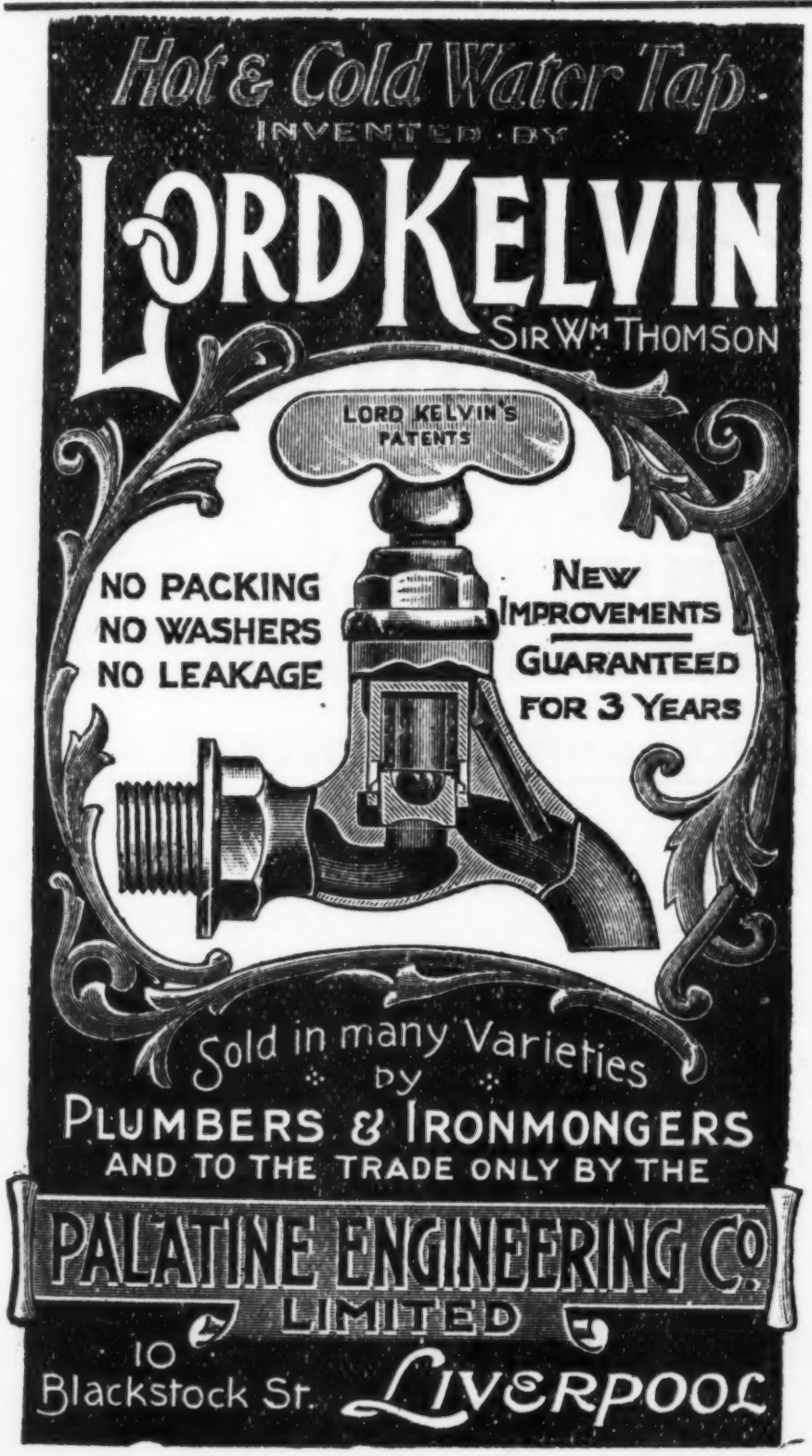

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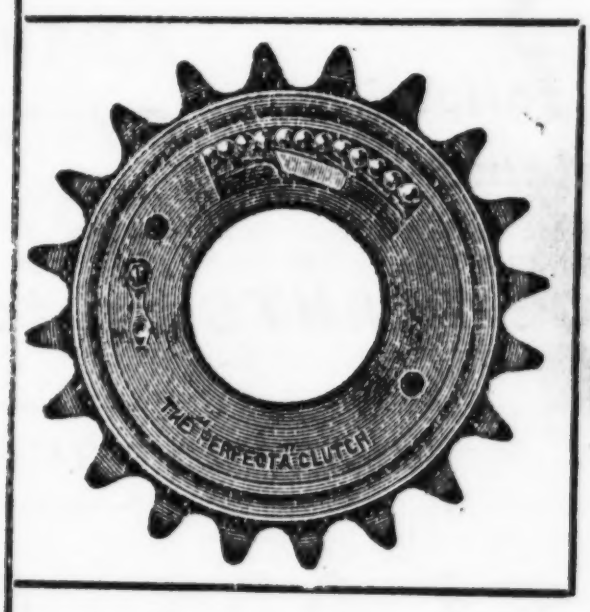

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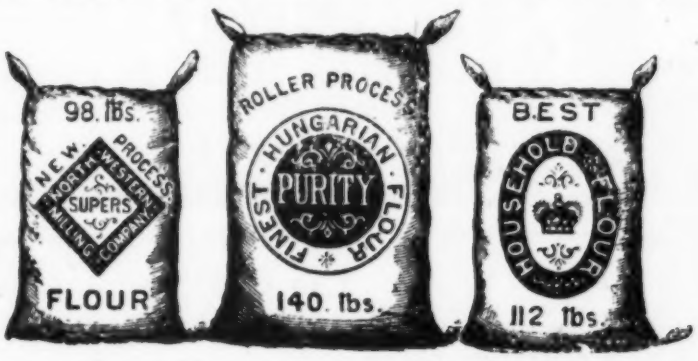

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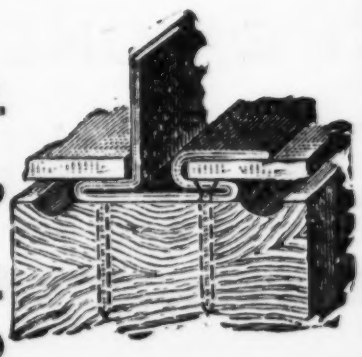

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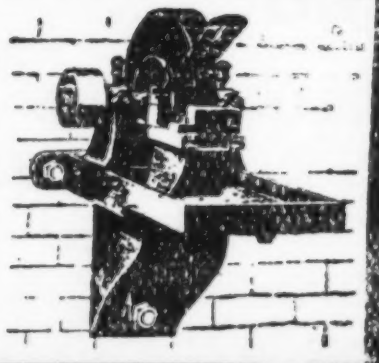

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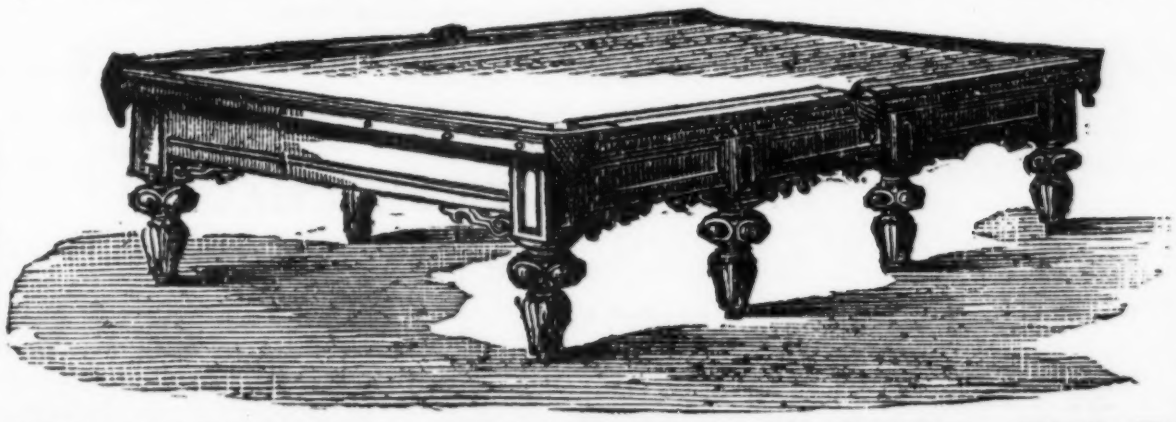

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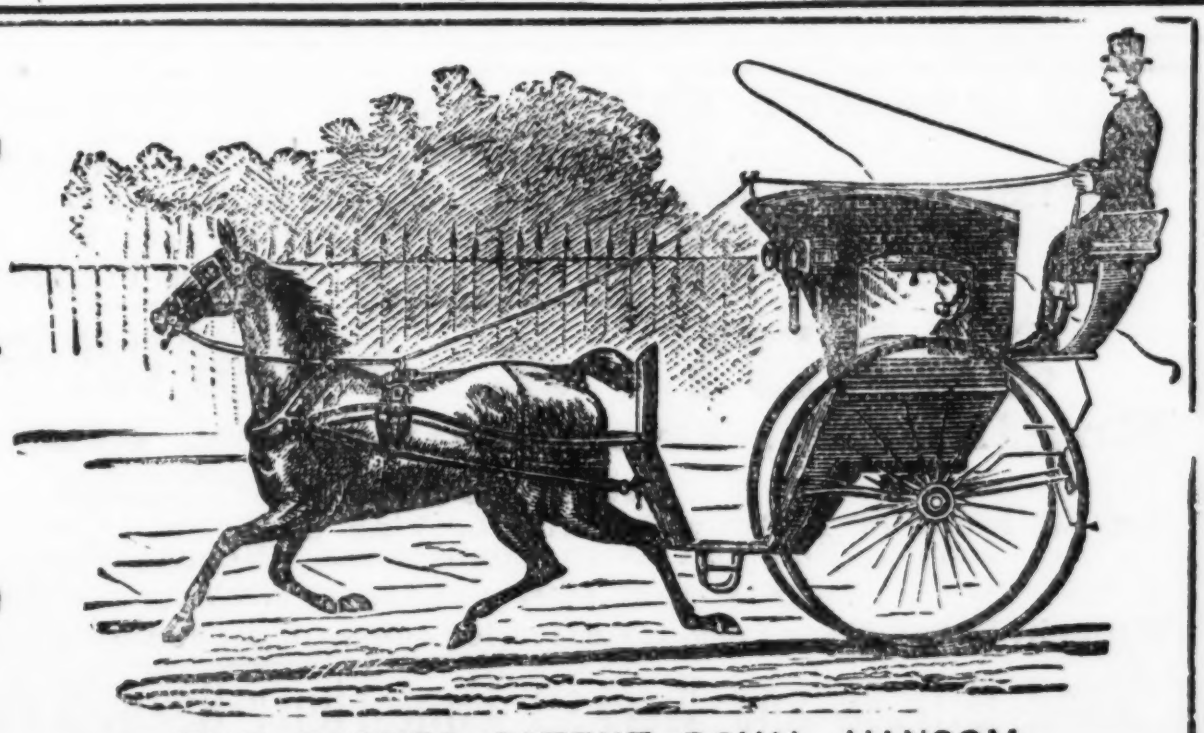

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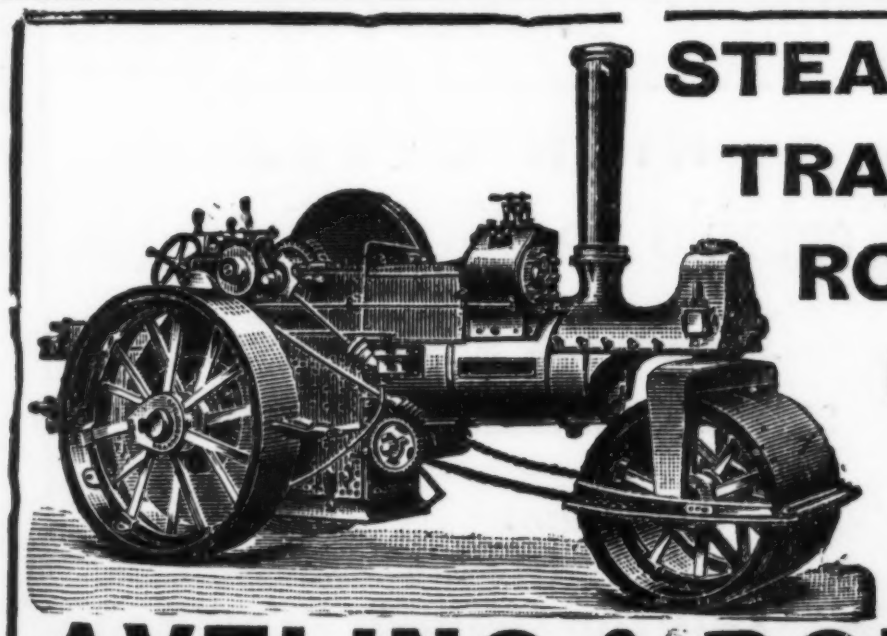

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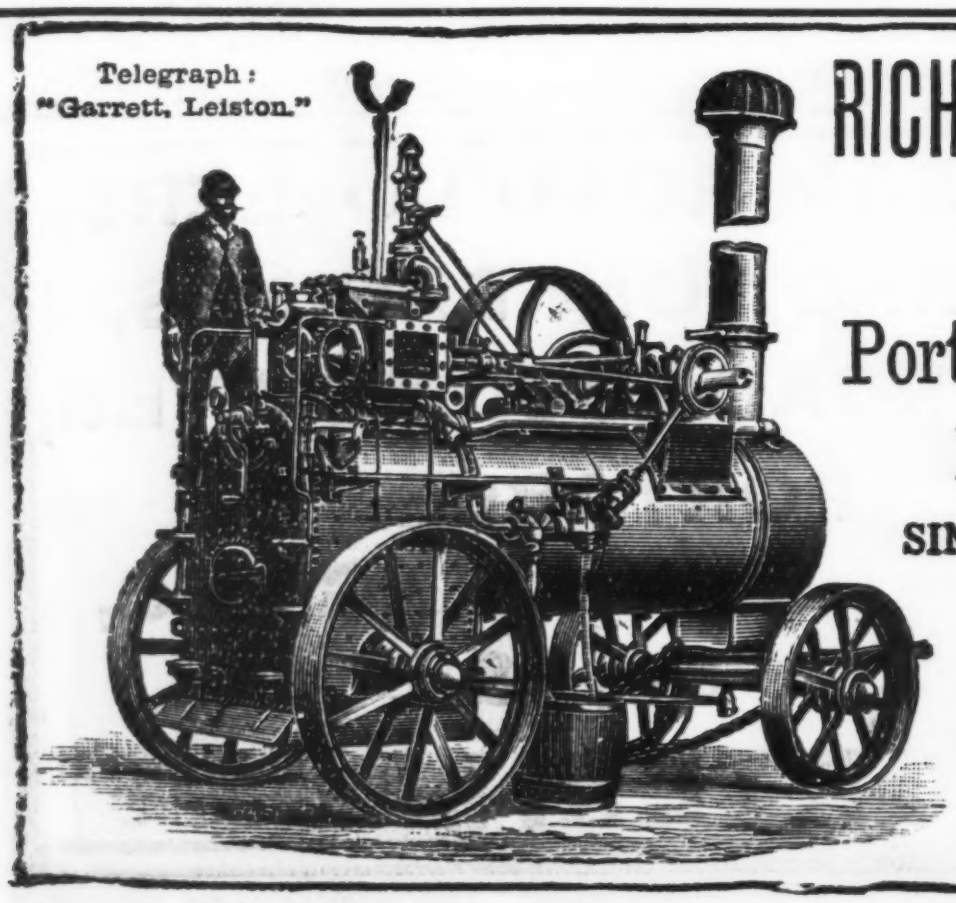

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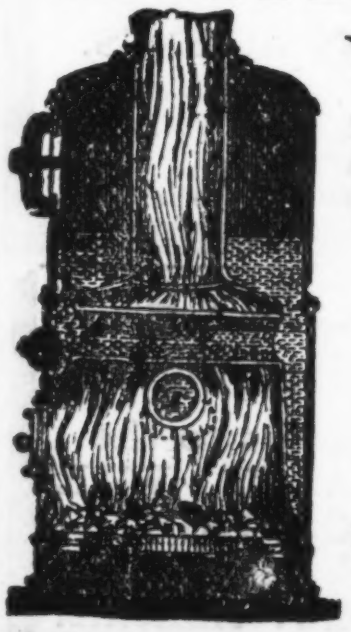

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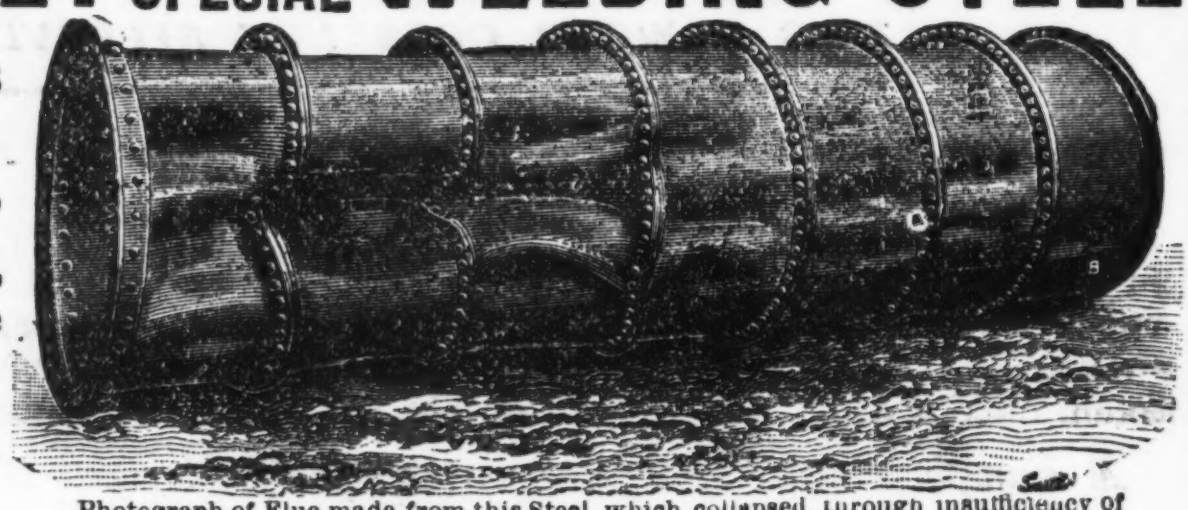

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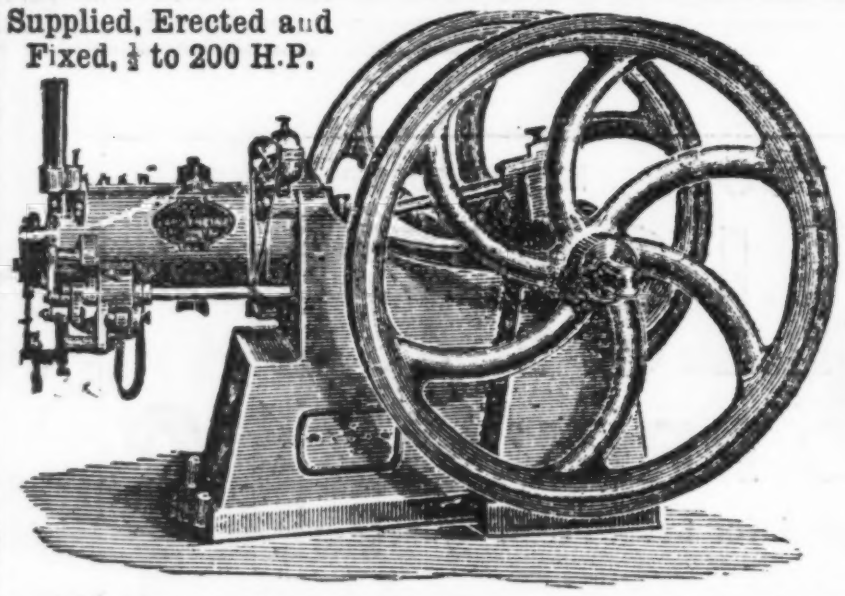

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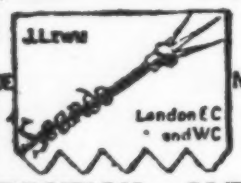

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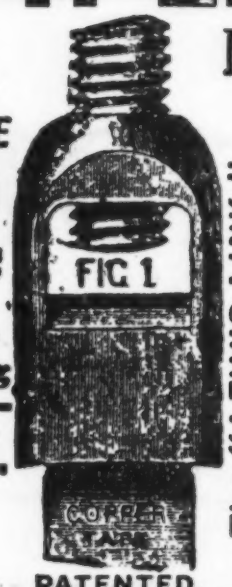

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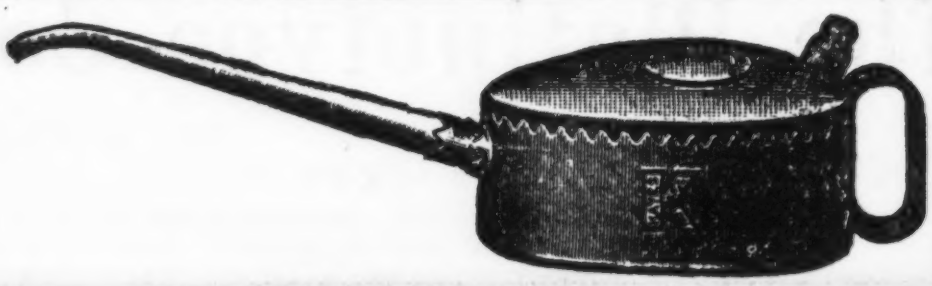

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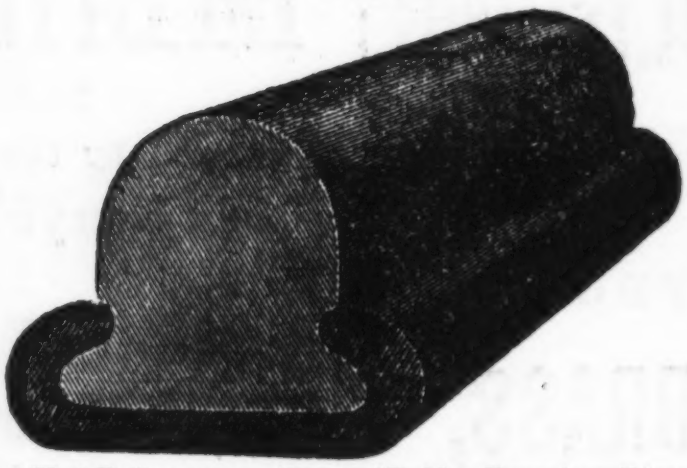

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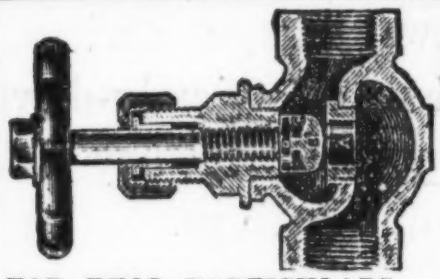

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A Gold Medal has been awarded to Messrs. John S. Brown & Sons, of Belfast, for their linen exhibit at the recent Cape Town Exhibition.

Messrs. Curtis and Harvey announce that experiments have recently been made at several South African mines with their new explosive, and these, they report, were eminently satisfactory.

Messrs. Joseph Kaye & Sons, Limited, Lock Works, Leeds, have issued price lists of seamless oil cans and other well-known specialities.

Messrs. The London Emery Works Company, Park, Tottenham, London, N., announce that the growth of their business has compelled them to remove to larger and more commodious premises, which they have had specially built at the above address.

Messrs. F. Reddaway & Co., Limited, Pendleton, Manchester, announce that they have purchased the business of the Lancashire Patent Belting and Hose Company, Limited, lately carried on at New Bridge-street, Strangeways, Manchester, together with the goodwill, stock-in-trade, trade-marks, &c.

Messrs. Straker & Squire, 9, Bush-lane, E.C., have issued a photograph of their petrol omnibus, and a pamphlet describing the same in detail. They are supplying omnibuses of the type illustrated to the Great Western Railway Company, and London General Omnibus Company, the London Road Car Company, and Messrs. Tillings.

Messrs. Royce, Limited, of Hulme, Manchester, have recently issued a third edition of their catalogue of electric cranes. This shows a large variety of "Goliath" yard cranes, overhead travellers, and other electrically-driven hoisting devices, of which Messrs. Royce have made a speciality. They build the cranes complete, including the electrical machinery and fittings.

Messrs. Accles & Pollock, Oldbury, makers of Weldless Steel Tubes and Best Butted Tubes, announce that they have been accepted by the Indian Office and General Post Office officials in bicycles made locally. Further, they are open to arrange special terms for Colonial Buyers.

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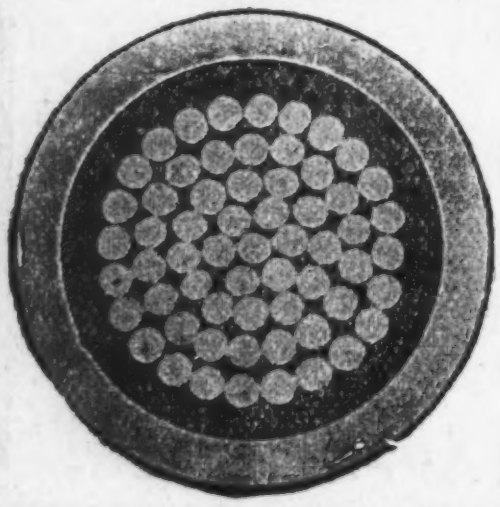

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